

Contents of the "Spiritual Man"

Most of the teaching still needs to be summarized. Hyperlinks will be added as new material becomes available.

If you are not a scholar by nature and have never heard of the benefit of reading the content index of a book, please do yourself a favour and give it a try.

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About "The Spiritual Man"

The "The Spiritual Man" is quite extraordinary in its content as well as extremely difficult to comprehend. Nee gives an explanation for this in the first preface. The problem in digesting the content of this book goes beyond the fact that Satan does not want us to have this knowledge. Our flesh does not want us to have it, because when we apply it our flesh loses its power over the soul to rule the being. The implications of this are many and will become clear as you struggle through the book. The first struggle will be to actually take the book up and read it. You will be amazed at the excuses that will present themselves to prevent you from reading. The second struggle is to concentrate and not allow your mind to wander. The third struggle is being confronted by teaching that opposes preconceptions and false knowledge. This will make you put the book down for years at a time. With time the Lord graciously manages to teach us the truth. The reason for the summaries is to firstly not infringe on copyright and secondly to provide a vehicle by which to streamline comprehension through descriptive definitions of obscure terms. The personal notes are from my own experience and those around me that have been exposed to brother Nee's teaching. The necessity for an accessible source on biblical based psychology has long since been overlooked. (Note: Psychology here does not only refer to the science of mental life but includes the study of the nature of the body with the attributes of contributing independently to the actions of the being, as well as the impact of a recreated human spirit).

Exerts from the first preface of The Spiritual Man.

Paraphrased sections in green.

A book touching on the way of spiritual life and the stratagem of spiritual warfare.

I lay down my pen chiefly because up to that time many truths had yet to be written which had not been fully proven in my experience. This lack I knew would lessen the value as well as the power of the book. I would prefer to learn more before the Lord and prove His truth through experience. What I wrote would then be spiritual realities instead of merely spiritual theories.

By the special grace of the Lord I was enabled to understand more of the purpose of God's redemption in dividing the new and the old creations.

I know the enemy hates this work deeply. He will try every means to prevent it from reaching people's hands and to hinder them from reading it.

It is written not so much to urge individuals to seek the spiritual way as to help those who are seeking to know the way.

The Spiritual life of readers vary. If you should therefore come to some point difficult to understand, please neither reject them nor try to fathom them mentally. Such truths should be reserved for more matured life. Upon re-reading that difficult part later, you may perhaps grasp it better. Nevertheless, this book deals wholly with spiritual life as an experience. In no other way can it be understood. What appears to be tasteless in the beginning may become most precious later. You will understand when you reach that stage. But is it necessary to wait until reaching that stage before understanding? If such were the case, what will be the use of this book! A great mystery surrounds the spiritual experience of the believer. The Lord always gives a foretaste of the outline of a deeper life before He leads him into the full experience of it. Many believers mistake their foretaste for the fullness, not realizing that the Lord is just beginning to lead them in. The teaching in this book will meet the need of those who have tasted but not yet fully drunk.

One thing we must guard against: we should never use the knowledge we acquire from this book as an aid in analyzing ourselves. Unless a believer is deeply taught by the Lord he will not be able to know himself. Introspection and self-consciousness are harmful to spiritual life.

God's purpose is that through the new life given us at the time of regeneration He might be able to deliver us from (1) sin, (2) the natural, and (3) the supernatural, that is, the satanic force of evil in the unseen realm.

It certainly is well to overcome sin, but the work is not complete if the petty self and supernatural evil are left unconquered. The cross can afford such victory.

The majority of this book may be considered as Biblical psychology. (Bookmark before you hit this link!) We base everything on the Bible and prove all by spiritual experience. The result of our findings, both through studying the Word and through experience, tells us that for every spiritual experience (for example, the new birth) there is a special change in our inward man. We conclude that the Bible divides man into three parts - spirit, soul and body. We shall see further how different are the functions and the realms of these three parts, particularly those of spirit and soul.

The differentiation of spirit and soul as well as the difference in their functions are necessary knowledge to those who seek to grow in spiritual life. Only after knowing what is the spirit and what is spiritual can we walk according to the spirit.

God's purpose is that His children are to be delivered wholly from the old creation and are to enter fully into the new creation.

New birth - receiving God's own life - is the starting point of all spiritual life.

As I recall how the enemy has tried to hinder me from learning the truths written in the last volume, I cannot but be apprehensive that some, though possessing the book, will be hindered by Satan from reading it; or if they do read it, will be made soon to forget it. Therefore let me warn my readers: you should ask God to keep Satan from preventing your reading it. Pray as you read; turn what you read into prayer. Pray that God will cover you with the helmet of your salvation lest you forget what you read or simply fill your mind with innumerable theories.

A few words to those who already possess the truths set forth in these pages. If God has graciously liberated you from the flesh and power of darkness, you, in turn, ought to bring these truths to others. So after you have digested the book thoroughly and the truths have become your own, will you gather a few saints together and teach them the truths.

The hope is that the truths herein will not go unnoticed. Even lending the book to others to read would be a profitable thing.

Watchman Nee

Shanghai

4 June 1927

Exerts from the second preface of *The Spiritual Man*.

I desire my readers to understand thoroughly that this work is in no way to be considered as a treatise on the theory of spiritual life and warfare. I myself can testify that I have learned these truths through much suffering, trial and failure. It can almost be said that every one of these teachings has been branded with fire. And these words are not used lightly; they come from the depth of the heart. God knows from whence these truths come.

I realize there are many apparent inconsistencies in the work, but the reader should remember that they are indeed apparent, not actual. Because this book treats the matters in the spiritual realm, there are bound to be many apparent theoretical contradictions. Spiritual things do often seem to be contradictory. (2 Corinthians 4:8,9). However, these all find their perfect harmony in experience. Hence, though there are places which seem to defy understanding, my request is that you try your best to understand. If anyone desires to misunderstand, he can surely read into these pages that which I have not intended.

Unless the reader has personal need he will not find any problem solved through the reading of these pages. This is what the reader must guard against. The deeper the truth the easier it is to become theoretical.

Apart from the working of the Holy Spirit, none can arrive at deeper truth. Thus some will treat these principals as a sort of ideal. Let us be careful lest we accept the teachings in the book with our mind and deceive ourselves into thinking we have

possessed them already. This is most dangerous, for deception that comes from the flesh and the evil spirit shall increase day by day.

The reader also should be watchful lest he misuse the knowledge he obtains from these pages to criticize others. It is very easy for us to say this is of the spirit and that is of the flesh; but do we not know we ourselves are no exception? Truth is given to set people free, not to find fault. In criticizing we prove ourselves to be not one bit less soulish or carnal than the criticized. The danger is most serious; consequently we need to exercise great caution.

In my first preface I mentioned one matter which deserves to be repeated and elaborated upon here. It is of the utmost importance that we never try to analyze ourselves. Upon reading such a treatise as this, we may quite unconsciously become over-active in self-analysis. In observing the condition of our inward life we tend to over-analyze our thoughts and feelings and the movements of the inner man. This may result in much apparent progress, yet it actually renders treatment of the self life that much more difficult. If we persistently turn within ourselves we shall lose our peace completely, for we shall soon discover the discrepancy which exist between our expectation and our actual condition. We expect to be filled with holiness but we are found wanting in holiness. This makes us uncomfortable. God never asks us to be so introspective. To do so constitutes one of the main reasons for spiritual stagnation. Our rest lies in looking to the Lord, not to ourselves. In the degree that we look off unto Him to that degree are we delivered from self. We rest on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, not on our own shifting experience. True spiritual life depends not on probing our feelings and thoughts from dawn to dusk but on "looking off" to the Saviour!

I most sincerely believe many supernatural experiences come from God; I have witnessed a great number of them. However, I acknowledge that today many supernatural phenomena are false and deceptive. When a believer is faced with any supernatural phenomenon, he ought to examine it carefully according to the principles revealed in the Bible before he decides to accept or reject it.

As for the matter of soul, I honestly feel most Christians swing from one extreme to the other. We on the one hand usually consider emotion as soulish; consequently those who are easily moved or excited we normally categorize as soulish. On the other hand we forget that being rational does not at all constitute one being spiritual. This misjudgment of spiritualizing a rational life must be guarded against equally as much as against that of mistaking a predominantly emotional life for spirituality. Proceeding one step further, we should never reduce the function of our soul to deadly inactivity. Formerly we may never have viewed our soulish feeling and excitement with any degree of concern and thus we walked accordingly. Later, however, and recognizing our former error, we now suppress these emotions altogether. Such an attitude to us may appear to be quite good, but it will not make us a whit more spiritual. If my reader misunderstands on this point, and no matter how minor be the misunderstanding, then I know his life is going to become very "dead". Why? Because his spirit without any opportunity to express itself, will be imprisoned by a deadened emotion. And beyond this lies a further danger; namely, that in overly-suppressing his emotion, the believer will develop eventually into a rational, not a spiritual, man; and thus, though in another form, he still remains soulish. Yet the excitement of the soul, if it expresses the spirit's feeling, is extremely valuable; and the thought of the soul, if it reveals the spirit's mind, can be most instructive.

I would like to say something about the concluding part of the book. Considering the frailty of my body, I would seem to be the least qualified to write on such a matter; perhaps, though, this very frailty affords me a deeper insight since I suffer more weakness, sickness and pain than most people. Countless times my courage has seem to fail but, thank God, I have been able to finish writing this portion. I hope those who have had similar experiences in their earthly tents will accept what I have written as offering light out of the darkness through which I have gone. Naturally innumerable are the controversies which have revolved around divine healing. Since this is a book that deals primarily with principles, I refrain from entering into argument with other believers on details. I have said in my book what I feel led to say. What I now request of my reader is that the phenomena of sickness he discern and distinguish as to which come from God and which from self.

I recognize that a work which seeks to uncover the wiles of the enemy shall certainly incur the hostility of the power of darkness and the opposition of many. I have not written with the thought of courting the approval of men. This opposition I consider therefore as of no account. I also realize that if God's children derive help from reading this book they may think more of me than is proper. Let me speak honestly that I am but a man, the weakest of all men. The teachings of these pages reveal the experience of my weakness.

Beloved, let us turn our hearts once again to our Father, cast ourselves upon His bosom by faith and draw from Him His life. Let us confess anew that we are poor but He is rich, that we have nothing but He has everything. Except we are given grace we are but defenseless sinners. May we thank Him with gratitude in our hearts, for the Lord Jesus has given us grace.

Holy Father, what you have entrusted to me is now here in this book. If it seems good to You, may You bless it. May You in these last days keep Your children from corrupted flesh and wicked spirits! Father, may You build Your Son's Body, destroy Your Son's enemy, and hasten the coming of Your Son's Kingdom! Father God I look to You, I cast myself upon You, and I desire after You!

Watchman Nee
Shanghai
25 June 1928

"THE SPIRITUAL MAN"

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Volume 1. PART ONE:
INTRODUCTION ON SPIRIT,
SOUL AND BODY.

Chapter 1

Spirit, Soul and Body

The Creation of Man

Respective Functions of Spirit, Soul and Body.

The Holy Temple and Man

Summary:

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY.

Synopsis: The human is a tripartite being. The Holy Spirit is at work in the believer, separating the spirit and the soul. We need to seek this experience through the acquisition of knowledge and by co-operating with the Holy Spirit.

According to the Bible a human being consist out of three distinguishable parts.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NIV

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the believer it is very important to know what the difference is between the soul and the spirit. If we can't distinguish between the two the result will be that we won't be able to live a life that is exclusively dependent on our spirit. (The level we depend on our spirit determines to what extent we can be defined as "spiritual Christians").

Knowledge does not determine spirituality and won't bring about the dividing of soul and spirit. This comes from our willingness to co-operate with the Holy Spirit, and only the Holy Spirit can give us this experience. We may be ignorant of the facts and still experience the division based only on our attitude toward the Holy Spirit. It is better to have the the knowledge as well as the experience.

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

The Holy Spirit, through the Word, divides the being by allowing us to identify what belongs to the outward person (flesh) and the inward person (soul and spirit), and then the further division between soul and spirit.

Footnotes: (Personal observations)

By co-operating with the Holy Spirit, He reveals the position of the soul in relation to the spirit. Through identifying their position we acquire the attitude of relying on the Holy Spirit to perform the dividing work and not on our own understanding.

How do we seek the experience of spirit and soul divided?

- By relying on the Holy Spirit Who uses the Word. Reading the Bible is an important spiritual exercise because the Holy Spirit uses the it like a sharp knife to expose to us every deep and hidden thing that keeps us from living a victorious life in Christ.

- We learn how to hear the Holy Spirit by reading the Word. He reveals the content of the Word in ever increasing depth. A revelation is when the Holy Spirit tells your spirit a secret (intuition). This gives occasion to great joy and immense perplexity when you tell others and they just don't seem to get it.

- He convicts of sin by reminding us of what the word says (conscience).

- More about hearing Him: Where is my spirit and How do I hear the Holy Spirit?

The fact that the soul and spirit can be divided proves that they are different, and it is through their identification and division that we get a clearer picture of what is spiritual.

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Summary:

THE CREATION OF MAN.

Synopsis: Basic overview of the practical relationship between spirit, soul and body.

Genesis 2:7 ASV

And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

- God forms man from the dust of the ground (body).
- He breathes the breath of life into his nostrils.
- The breath of life becomes man's spirit.
- The breath of life (spirit) combined with the body produces the soul.
- Man becomes a living soul.
- The breath of life (spirit) is the main source of life. It is the spirit that gives life.

John 6:63 NIV

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

Be aware not to confuse man's spirit with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:16 NIV

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

The original Hebrew word for life in "breath of life" is chay and is in the plural. This implies two forms of life, the soulical and the spiritual. This is not God's own uncreated eternal life that we receive at the new birth, but created life.

Job 33:4 NIV

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

The created spirit is permanent in its existence but is void of eternal life. The born again spirit is inhabited by the Holy Spirit Who does have eternal life and it's because of His presence in our spirit that we have eternal life.

The soul.

In Adam the spirit and body were merged in the soul. With us it's the same but he did not experience the inward struggle between the flesh and the spirit nature (in his unfallen state) as we do.

In Adam the three natures were harmoniously blended. The soul which was the blending medium was also the source of his individuality. In the same way that dye combined with water makes ink. Spirit combined with body makes soul. The difference is that the soul becomes a third and independent element, not merely a by-product.

God created man predominantly as a soul. It is in the soul where we find man's individuality and will. It is with the soul that we make decisions. Do we follow God or do we follow self. His will or my will.

An illustration of the trinity which constitutes a human being can be seen in the example of a light bulb.

•Spirit = electricity. •Soul = light. •Body = wire. •Wire + electricity = light. •Body + spirit = soul.

In order to appreciate the uniqueness of the soul we have to understand the immense difference between the spirit and the body. The body is a biological machine, it exists in linear time. The spirit belongs in the spiritual realm, which is a multidimensional time zone, unaffected by the laws that govern the physical realm.

While we are in the body the soul rules in that it decides which nature to live by (flesh or spirit). The resurrected person will be ruled by the spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:44 NIV it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. It is important to note that we who are in Christ have already died, and are resurrected in Him. This means we can be ruled by our spirit even while we are still in our physical body.

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Summary:

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY.

Synopsis: God consciousness, world consciousness and choice.

Our body exists in the physical realm and through it we become world-conscious. The soul consists of the intellect, will and emotions. Emotions are activated by the physical senses. Soul also comprises of self and personality and through it we become self-conscious. The spirit exists in the spiritual realm and this is where we meet with God. The spirit gives us God-consciousness.

•God dwells in our spirit. •Self dwells in our soul. •Senses dwell in our body.

By our spirit we experience eternal life. With our body we are tempted to join the world. In the soul these two elements are merged, and they can only influence each other through the soul. It is the soul that wills whether to follow the spirit or the flesh.

The correct order of function of the being is this: The Holy Spirit instructs our spirit which in turn instructs the soul, and the soul instructs the body. The function originates with God to our spirit which is inside the soul, to the soul that is hidden in the body. Luke 1:46-47 My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. Her soul magnified after her spirit rejoiced and the evidence of the process is in the manifestation of the words spoken with her mouth (body).

The soul is a very powerful part of the being and if the spirit rules the being this power belongs to the spirit. While the flesh rules, instead of bringing life and prosperity we see this power being used to manipulate, undermine and dominate each other. The soul decides whether the body or spirit reigns the being, and in some cases the soul itself chooses to reign.

The spirit can only rule when the soul has willed to humble itself. We were not created as God's puppets without will or accountability, and He does not override our will with His own. He lives by the same laws that He put in place. That's why He died as an atonement for our sin. We have a free will to choose whether to serve Him or not.

Because of the significant position of the soul the word often refers to man as a living soul.

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Summary:

THE HOLY TEMPLE AND MAN.

Synopsis: Man the temple of God. The contact point between God and man.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

The Old Testament tabernacle is a likeness of man. God first lives in the Holy of Holies inside the temple and now He lives in our spirit.

1. Outer court = the body:

The outer court can be seen and visited by all. This is the place of external worship. The body is the visible part and stands in broad daylight, nothing is hidden. The body's actions are seen by everyone.

2. Holy place = soul.

Only the priests are allowed access here. They are still separated from His presence by the veil. This is likened to the soul, the inner part of man where we find will, intellect and emotion. Here we perform the same function as the Old Testament priests. Revelation 1:6 And has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Light in the Holy Place is supplied by the lamp stand of seven branches. The soul is enlightened by thoughts, knowledge and understanding.

3. Holy of holies = spirit.

The Lord dwells in the deepest most sacred Holy of Holies where no light comes and where the high priest can only enter but once a year. Ordinary man can only experience the presence of God after the veil is rent (transition from old to new testament). The Lord now dwells in our spirit where the light of soulical understanding does not penetrate. The spirit is beyond self-consciousness and above sensibility. Here there is no light of rationalism, everything is done by faith.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The order of importance is spirit, soul and body. All the activities of the Holy Place and Outer Court are reliant on the revelation that comes from the Holy of Holies. So it should be with the believer. Although the spirit seems dark and quiet, this is where we meet with God. It is only when our soul stops striving and becomes attentive to the Holy Spirit when we start walking in the will and peace of God.

Instead of using our intellect to get what our body wants, we should quiet the activities of our soul through worship, prayer and meditation (on the word) so that we can learn to hear the Lord and do His will.

•Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper. •Matthew 6:33 But first seek the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. •John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: •Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

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"THE SPIRITUAL MAN"

by Watchman Nee

ISBN

0-935008-39-X

Volume 1. PART ONE:

INTRODUCTION ON SPIRIT,
SOUL AND BODY.

Chapter 2

Spirit

Soul

The Soul Life

Soul and Man's Self

Summary:

SPIRIT

Synopsis: Only the Holy Spirit can teach: To be spiritual we must know our spirit. Ask God to reveal what is spirit and what is soul.

We must realize that we have a spirit, and learn how to distinguish between our spirit and our soul. It is in our spirit that God communicates with us. If we fail to discern between spirit and soul we will mistake soulish activities as spiritual and never do the will of the Father.

•1 Corinthians 2:11 "the spirit of man which is in him" •1 Corinthians 5:4 "my spirit" •Romans 8:16 "our spirit" •1 Corinthians 14:4 "my spirit" •1 Corinthians 14:32 "spirits of prophets" •Proverbs 25:28 "his own spirit" •Hebrews 12:23 "the spirits of just men" •Zechariah 12:1 "the Lord... formed the spirit of man within him"

The spirit of man is a separate entity. It cannot be confused with his soul, or the Holy Spirit. The spirit has three main functions:

•Conscience

Conscience is the discerning organ. It distinguishes between right and wrong. It does this through direct judgment not through knowledge stored in the mind. Reason will often try and justify the things that our conscience judge. The operation of the conscience is independent and final, it does not get influenced by opinions. Right is right and wrong is wrong. When we do wrong our conscience will make itself heard.

In depth analysis of conscience: Vol 2, PART FIVE: Chapter 3

•Intuition

Intuition is the sensing organ. It works in complete independence from soulful or physical influence. With our intuition we "know". With our mind we "understand". Biblical knowledge is stored in the mind, biblical revelation is acquired through intuition by the input of the Holy Spirit. Leading of the Holy Spirit is by intuition.

In depth analysis of intuition: Vol 2, PART FIVE: Chapter 1

•Communion

Communion is the worshiping and communication with God. True worship is an activity performed in our spirit. God is a spiritual God and all His dealings with us occur in the spirit.

These three functions of the spirit operate interactively with each other. The conscience judges according to intuition. Intuitive knowledge is a result of communion with God.

We must ask the Lord to reveal to us what is spiritual and what is soulful (through experience), if we earnestly desire to do His will.

[spirit - SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

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[Conscience - Concept index]

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Summary:

SOUL

Synopsis: The definition of life, Zoe or Psuche.

The soul is the element that makes us conscious of self. It determines our personality. The three main elements are:

Mind:

•Intellect: wisdom, knowledge and reasoning. •Thoughts •Ideals

Emotion: likes and dislikes, affection, desire, feeling and sensing.

•Love or hate •Joy or anger •Sad or happy

Will:

•Discernment •Choice: the power to choose, without it we'd be robots. •Decision

[soul - SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

[dividing - SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

[Dividing of the soul and spirit - Dictionary]

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Summary:

THE SOUL LIFE

Synopsis: Soul is self and Psuche life.

The three Greek words that describe life:

•Bios: refers to the woman that put her whole life or living into the offering. Mark 12:44 KJV For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her own will did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

•Zoe: eternal life or the life of the spirit.

•Psuche: the natural created life of the soul. According to Biblical reference (old and new testament), soul and soul life are synonymous. The soul is the very life of man.

It is important to recognize the soul as man's life because this realization has a great influence in determining whether we become a spiritual or soulful Christian.

[dividing - SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

[Dividing of the soul and spirit - Dictionary]

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Summary:

SOUL AND MAN'S SELF

Synopsis: The identification of this life enables the separation between spirit and soul.

Self is the soul. This can be qualified by observing the amount of times where "soul" is translated as "self".

Old Testament.

- Leviticus 11:43 Ye shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps, neither shall ye make yourselves unclean with them, that ye should be defiled thereby.
 - Esther 9:31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times [appointed], according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fasting and their cry.
 - Job 18:4 He tears himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?
 - Job 32:2 Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.
 - Isaiah 46:2 They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity.
 - Exodus 12:16 And in the first day [there shall be] an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save [that] which every man (original, "every soul") must eat, that only may be done of you.
 - Numbers 35:11 Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which kills any person (original, "kill any soul") at unawares.
 - Numbers 23:10 Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth [part] of Israel? Let me die (original, "let my soul") the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!
 - Leviticus 2:1 And when any (original, "any soul") will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be [of] fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon:
 - Psalm 131:2 Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul [is] even as a weaned child.
 - Esther 4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself (original, "soul") that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.
 - Amos 6:8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, (original, "sworn by his soul") says the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.
- New Testament.
- 1 Peter 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls (persons) were saved by water.
 - Acts 27:37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls (persons).
 - Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, (a warning to an evil man's soul is a warning to him self.)
 - James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.
 - Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, [and] be merry. (He is talking to him self).
 - Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Greek "psuche" - life) or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Greek "psuche" - life).
 - Luke 9:25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, (Greek "eautov") or be cast away?
- They say the same thing using different words. Soul and life are the same, soul and self are the same and life and self are the same. The life referred to here is the natural soul life that we are all born with. It consists of all the attributes of this lifes strengths, weakness, power, choice, thought, opinion, likes, dislikes, feelings etc. This life is restricted to the realm of the soul and consists of everything that is soulical. If we can identify this soulical life we will then have the ability to distinguish between what is soulical and what is spiritual. This distinction will make it possible for a separation of the two.

[dividing - SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

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"THE SPIRITUAL MAN"

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Volume 1. PART ONE:

INTRODUCTION ON SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY.

Chapter 3

The Fall of Man

Spirit, Soul and Body after the Fall

Summary:

THE FALL OF MAN

Synopsis: Independence, self-reliance, the quest for knowledge (intellect). Rebellion (will), idolatry (emotion), all activities of the soul which led to the fall.

Man is created with a free will. He has the ability to choose whether to be a part of the Lord's plan or not. God does not force His will on anyone.

Adam had the ability to discover the truth and substance of His spiritual life. For him to take hold of God's knowledge and make it his own. By eating from the tree of life he could take part in God's own life which is eternal. In this instance man would not only be ruled by his spirit but his whole being would become spiritual and everlasting.

On the other hand if the order of priority would change (the spirit being subject to the soul), he would be drawn away from God to the point of separation. Separation from God would mean the certain demise of the being. Without the knowledge of God the being would eventually self destruct.

This process was put into action when he chose to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This knowledge was intended to stimulate the soul to the point of self reliance. The spirit was disregarded because of the fierce activity of the soul. The knowledge of God was disregarded and lost because it is spiritual.

The knowledge of good and evil is evil in itself. Because, it stimulates the soul to the point where the spirit becomes separated from God and as good as dead.

Unfallen Adam was neither sinful nor righteous. He had the same choice we have, to serve God or to serve self. Be spiritual or carnal. Eve was tempted because she ignored her spirit. Satan posed a question to her soul. He incited her mental exertion. His question contradicted God's word and she justified what he said (after the soul being stimulated) instead of correcting him (by the conviction of her spirit). (I suspect the only reason Satan had any success was because Eve had never been lied to before). As soon as Eve no longer relied on her spirit (walking by the spirit) but engaged her intellect (soul) with problem solving, Satan could reach her will (soul). The result was sin.

Satan first tempts her body (the fruit looks good to eat). Then the soul (It's going to make you wise). In order to render her spirit ineffective.

The acquisition of "spiritual knowledge" with the soul is detrimental to the spirit. Godly knowledge can only be acquired from spending time with God and by relying on the leading of the Holy Spirit, not through mental exertion.

Satan turned Eve's will through her intellect and Adam's through his emotion. Eve wanted to be wise and Adam made her his idol. Loving her more than the Lord. Eve was deceived and Adam rebelled.

Intellect was the chief cause of the fall. This is why God employs the tree of folly to bring about salvation. He uses foolishness of the cross to "destroy the wisdom of the wise."

•1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. •1 Corinthians 3:18-20 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seem to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He takes the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. •1 Corinthians 1:18-25 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where [is] the wise? where [is] the scribe? where [is] the disputer of this world? has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Satan's work is done from the outside to the inside and the Lord from inside to the outside. Satan starts on the body or the soul to get to the spirit. God works from the spirit to enlighten the soul to do the Lords will.

It is the soul that sins because it is the will that decides to sin. It is the soul that needs atonement, and atonement can only come from another soul.

With Adam we see rebellion and the will to be independent. The tree of life implies dependence on God where the tree of knowledge offers independence. The spiritual christian is wholly dependent on God and satisfied with what He has given. The soulish christian is more interested in knowledge than God. Independence is a characteristic of the soulish. The tree of knowledge and the tree of life does not grow side by side in us. Rebellion and independence are the source of all sins.

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Summary:

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY AFTER THE FALL

The result of sin was that death entered the spirit. Death of the human spirit is none other than separation from God. The spirit does not disappear or become inoperative. It still exists but it's main function; namely communication with God, has ceased. This is a serious condition that result in the corruption (a nicer word for rot), of the being. The result of a rotting spirit is a rotting mind and a rotting body; starting with depravity and sickness.

A very active fallen spirit usually result in willful participation in occult activities. Individuals that are classified as Witches, Warlocks, Sangomas, Voodooists, Fortune tellers, etc.etc. Also the leaders of false religions. These people are controlled by the sinful nature and are strongly opposed to true spirituality, thus the persecution of the followers of Jesus. (The reason I don't say Christians is because there are many "Christians" that do not necessarily follow Jesus).

With the fallen spirit, either the soul or the body is in control of the being, the result of this is obvious. The darkened mind (soul) comes up with many philosophies and theories to obtain eternal life or the fullness of life, all which result in confusion and ultimately death.

All the legitimate desires of the body become lusts with the presence of a fallen spirit. Legitimate desires are God given and are able to be satisfied. Lusts on the other hand cannot. So that participation in lusts will always lead to the striving for more, better or different satisfaction.

Sin, having killed the spirit gives the sinful nature of the body, authority to reign in the being.

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Volume 1. PART ONE:

INTRODUCTION ON SPIRIT,
SOUL AND BODY.

Chapter 4

SALVATION

Calvary's Judgment

Regeneration

Two Kinds of Christians

Summary:

CALVARY'S JUDGMENT

As the first sin was being committed, death entered the world. Sin must be judged and the penalty is death. Sin is in humanity. Man cannot get free from the penalty of sin by dying because he is part of humanity and atonement can only be by humanity. Jesus took on human nature so that He could legally take the judgment that should be on humanity on to Himself. The result is that whoever believes that Jesus is the Saviour has already been judged. NIV John 5:24 " I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

In the same way that the sin of Adam is the sin of all humanity, the punishment that was on Jesus is the punishment for all of humanity that accepts Him. His judgment is their judgment. They have been judged in Jesus and will not be judged again.

Humanity needed to suffer judgment in spirit soul and body, and on the cross Jesus did suffer in all these parts. Jesus became sin. His holy humanity was completely destroyed as God judged unholy humanity in Him. He was completely removed from God, this is the consequence of sin.

Jesus represented humanity on the cross. His death, punishment, judgment is reckoned as our death, our, punishment and our judgment. By faith we are in Him and He in us. The judgment on Him was complete, it is the same as if we had been judged in person.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 6:7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Positionally our sinful nature is dead, we need the Holy Spirit to make this what we experience. Judgment happens at the cross. The death of Jesus is the death of our sinful nature, the resurrection of Jesus is the birth of our divine nature.

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Summary:

REGENERATION

Regeneration is described in the Bible as passing out of death into life. (John 5:24 Bible Gateway) The definition of death is to be separated from God Who is the source of life. Regeneration happens when we are born-again.

The part of us that gets born-again is our spirit. Although a dramatic change occurs in the spirit, the body and soul remains unchanged. God is spirit and He deals with man primarily through his spirit.

(The soul can be renewed to conform to God's way of thinking. And in most cases there is a certain amount of renewal that takes place alongside the new birth. For example, an individual would find that he/she has stopped using bad language or lying without consciously making an effort to do so. Renewal in the body manifests in various forms, i.e. losing an addiction. This does not mean the body is renewed, this is merely the result of the presence of God inside the spirit. Usually addictions are accompanied by demons, and when the Holy Spirit moves in the demon backs-off.

The important thing to remember is that the body retains its sinful nature after new birth while the spirit gets a the divine nature of God. This is why we have to crucify the flesh with its sinful nature; die to self by living after the spirit with its divine nature. Then only can His loving nature be seen in us.)

Regeneration can not be brought about by the activities of the soul (mental gymnastics or philosophy). It comes about by using faith in the Lord Jesus. Believing that He has died for us means that we accept the fact that we have already been punished by dying in Him. (The implications of this action of faith gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to bring about the manifestation of experience in accordance to the legal position of the believer. In other words, if you believe it you're going to experience it.)

Positionally, the person who puts his faith in Jesus, has been joined to Him. Everything that has happened to Jesus has happened to the one who believes in Jesus. We have been crucified and have died, we have also been resurrected with Him. Crucifixion deals with the penalty of sin. Resurrection deals with the power of sin.

(As far as I can deduct and I stand under correction; the way we experience the death of Jesus is having the assurance of our salvation. The way we experience resurrection is having a renewed mind. Another angle is that the death of Jesus in us should give us the relief, peace and joy that we have already been punished and now stand totally free from condemnation. The resurrection of Jesus in us should manifest as the impossibility for the power of sin to operate through us. A sinless life can thus not be achieved through performance, but by faith in Jesus; more particular in seeking, by faith, the power of His resurrection.)

Death concludes our sinful walk and resurrection initiates the life of a Christian. Although we have been resurrected positionally we are urged to seek the experience of "the power of resurrection"

(1 Peter 3:10 Bible Gateway).

{Take note: we are not urged to seek the experience of the Lord's death (assurance), this should be a standard established fact in the mind of each believer. }

Positionally, we are considered dead, raised and ascended with Jesus. We are as acceptable as Jesus is. Rebirth is the result of our position in Christ's. The experience of rebirth can thus, not be brought about by a deep understanding in the experimental death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus, but only by faith in Him.

Our position compared to Adam's position: Adam's spirit was created by God. Our re-created spirit has the un-created eternal life of God. Adam's spirit is everlasting, this is true of all spirits. The difference between everlasting and "eternal life" is that everlasting could be in or outside the presence of God. To have "eternal life" means that you are joined to, grafted in , fused with, connected into, share or partake of the actual same life as God. This life cannot die. This life is the possession of every believer. This life is a free gift, the reward for putting your faith in Jesus.

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Summary:

TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS

According to 1 Corinthians 3:1 all Christians can be divided into the two groups, spiritual and carnal. A spiritual Christian allows the Holy Spirit to guide and govern him to do the perfect will of the Father. A carnal Christian has been born again but has not overcome the sinful nature of his flesh. Instead of being governed by the Spirit he is ruled by feelings, emotions, desires, greed, good or bad intentions, intellectual interpretation etc. etc.

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"THE SPIRITUAL MAN"

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Volume1. PART TWO:

THE FLESH.

Chapter 1

THE FLESH AND SALVATION

How Does Man Become Flesh?

(1) What is flesh?

(2) How does man become flesh?

(3) What is the nature of the flesh?

The Unregenerated Man

God's Salvation

Regeneration

The Conflict Between the Old and the New

[RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT SOUL BODY]

Summary:

THE FLESH AND SALVATION

The word flesh has four usages in the Bible.

•Fleshly, the condition of all that are not born again. •The parts of the human body that are not fluid or bone. •The human body as a whole. •Mankind in it's totality.

[RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT SOUL BODY]

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Summary:

HOW DOES MAN BECOME FLESH?

(1) What is flesh? John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." Every attribute whether good or bad, inherited from the parents belongs to the flesh.

(2) How does man become flesh? He is born into it, he does not learn to be fleshly, it comes naturally. We have a natural tendency to follow the desires of our body.

(3) What is the nature of the flesh? It is corrupt and unchanging, it can not be improved or bettered in any way.

See THE UNREGENERATED MAN

[RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT SOUL BODY]

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Summary:

THE UNREGENERATED MAN

An unregenerated man can be totally given over to sin, to the extent that he has no consciousness of his sinfulness. He will practice lawlessness and judge others for doing the same. He may even take pride in a delusion of superiority, considering himself better than others.

The flesh "serves the law of sin" (Romans 7:5, 14, 25)

The flesh is "hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot" (Romans 8:3,7)

The flesh might try to establish it's own righteousness by observing the law and doing good works. This only proves it's disobedience to God. "by works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16 American Standard Version).

The corruption of the flesh is complete. Not even the Holy Spirit can cause the flesh to change. Salvation therefore supplies the being with a new life and the ability to put the life of the flesh to death. Salvation is death to the flesh.

[RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT SOUL BODY]

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Summary:

GOD'S SALVATION

Romans 8:33 "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,"

The law was powerless to justify man. It was weakened by the sinful nature of the flesh.

Romans 3:20 "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

The law cannot redeem one from sin, it only exposes that which is already there. There is absolutely no way in which man can save himself, therefore God displays His infinite love for man by taking this task on Himself. He does this by sending Jesus Who takes on the likeness of sinful flesh. At this point He represents God's sinlessness, as well as flesh (mankind). He willfully takes the punishment of sinful flesh on His sinless flesh to be the sacrifice of all flesh.

"And so he condemned sin in the flesh," Not only does this death grant the forgiveness of sins, it also renders the power of sin to be dead. Condemned means to judge and punish. Jesus punished sin by putting it to death in His flesh. This means that everyone who accepts the death of Jesus as there own, can accepts the fact that they have died to the power of sin. Sin has thus no right to manifest itself in the body of a born again believer. The reason it does this, is because many believers lack the revelation of this knowledge.

[RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT SOUL BODY]

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Summary:

REGENERATION

The cross of Calvary gives the believer two things: Release from the penalty of sin as well as release from the power of sin. Although sin is dealt with completely at the cross, man still possesses life in his flesh. We know that nothing good comes out of the flesh and that it is with our spirit that we interact with God. The fallen spirit is considered dead because it is cut off from God. This is why God gives us a new life in our spirit. The same life by which God Himself lives. This is regeneration and the minimum for spiritual life.

It is very important that the believer has the assurance that he has been regenerated or born again. A person is regenerated when he believes on the name of Jesus and accepts Him as saviour. If an individual has doubts about his/her salvation they only have to ask themselves this question: Have I realized that I am a sinner, have I asked Jesus to forgive me and become my saviour? If the answer is yes, then the person is regenerated. Everyone that accepts Jesus as their saviour is born anew. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF SPIRIT SOUL BODY]

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Summary:

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW

The two main components of flesh are "sin" and "me". "...sin that dwells in me...,that is in my flesh" (Romans 7:14,17-18 Darby). "Sin" is the power of sin and "me" is "self".

The sinful nature of our flesh has been dealt with on the cross. To enforce this fact needs one act of faith. The self of the flesh has also been dealt with on the cross but because it is an integral part of the being, (unlike the power of sin which the product of disobedience; the fall) and remains malignant until the spirit and soul leaves the body, it's death has to be enforced on a daily basis.

Romans 6:6 NIV For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

In regard to sin, man is only required to consider the accomplished fact that it has been put to death in the flesh of Jesus.

Romans 6:11 NIV In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This act of faith will bring about the effectiveness of the Lord's death and the believer's experience will be the total deliverance from the power of sin.

Romans 6:14 NIV For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

For the believer to have victory over sin he/she needs only a moment. Victory over self, requires a lifetime of Luke 9:23 "..., he must deny himself and take up his cross daily ..."

(Personal Note: The act of taking up the cross and denying one's self is not a difficult or painful experience as it was for Jesus. It is not a form of punishment. For Jesus it was hard and painful, for us it is easy because it is the way of deliverance from the flesh. God wants us to be successful and victorious over the flesh, to be functional Christians busy establishing His kingdom on earth. We are useless to God while we struggle with the flesh or with a painful cross that is too hard to bear.

The reason why denying self is so difficult for most is because they are not dealing with self at all, but struggling with the power of sin in the flesh. It is virtually impossible to die to self while struggling with the power of sin. It is virtually impossible to distinguish between the two while this struggle is on. Taking up the cross daily has to do with self not sin. Self is not sinful, but it has it's own agenda. This agenda does not conform to God's will. The only result of following self's agenda is to displease God and to get back under the yoke of the power of sin.

We deny self by taking up the cross daily. We deal with sin by faith. The first step is to get the revelation that the power of sin is dead. The power of sin has already been killed by the cross. This is a positional truth and has to be grasped by faith. Once we experience it's death it is sustained and prevented from creeping back by applying the cross on a daily basis. The reason why we hammer the self of the flesh to the cross each day is not because it's sinful, but because it would like to be. This is a safeguard for our benefits and should be embraced with thanksgiving and praise, not with dread or trepidation.

Galatians 5:16-17 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the (self of the) flesh. For the (self of the) flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the (self of the) flesh.

It is important to notice how we apply the cross. It is by co-operating with the Holy Spirit, to live by the Spirit. Jesus did not suffer the cross because He was a suicidal masochist, He did it out of obedience to the Father. We apply the cross in the exact same way. Obedience, His will not our will, His agenda not our own.)

The cross has dealt with sin once and for all, the Holy Spirit deals with self, through the cross on a daily basis.

A revelation of the full work of the cross will give believers total freedom from sin and the experience of a new life. Most Christians only believe in half of their salvation; the forgiveness of sin. They believe their sins are forgiven but they lack the strength to stop sinning. They either don't know about or freely accept to be delivered from the power of sin. The result is that they struggle with sin instead of self. Most have no idea what self is.

There is a group of people that accept the two-fold deliverance from sin when they get born again. These are the one's that before regeneration experience the struggle between morality and lust. They live by a moral standard which is challenged by the sinful nature of the flesh.

The other group, which make up the majority of born again Christians, either come from a life of total sinfulness or of a low conviction moral standard. The latter knows about a moral standard but will not spend much effort to uphold it. These Christians gladly receive forgiveness of sin but neglect deliverance from the power of sin. They experience many struggles and failures. We are required to leave our former master which is sin and become a subject of God. Without the revelation that sin is powerless, this is virtually impossible to do. The result is the delusion that God has rejected them, depression, self condemnation etc.

NB! This struggle is not God's plan for your life.

Both the flesh and the spirit wants to be in control of the being. They are in complete opposition to one another. The flesh is focused on self and leads us into sin, destruction and misery. The spirit is focused on Jesus and leads us into righteousness,

supernatural success and peace. If the full implication of salvation has not been realized, these two elements (flesh and spirit) battle for supremacy in the being. This can cause severe discomfort for the believer, leaving him/her exhausted and frustrated.

Some doubt their salvation not realizing that it is because of regeneration that this struggle now exists. Before they got born again they could commit any sin without feeling any remorse. Now their conscience convicts them of sin and instead of satisfaction they experience regret.

The spirit objects and resists the work of the flesh, and this stirs the flesh into a positive campaign of attack against the spirit. The believer feels as if he is two different people living in a single body. When the flesh gains the upper hand the experience is grief, when the spirit does the experience is joy.

Inward struggle.

Romans 7:15-23

15 For what I do I don't understand: for what I want to do, that do I not; but what I hate, I do.

What the will (soul) does, the intellect (soul) does not understand. (The will is absorbed by the compulsive sinful behaviour of the flesh in spite of the fact that it has decided to be a Christian. The intellect does not understand why the will is powerless): for what the will (soul) wants to do, the flesh does not, what the spirit hates, the flesh does.

16 If then I do what I don't want to do, I consent unto the law that it is good.

When soul does the things that war against the spirit, the law exposes them as sin.

17 Now then it is no longer I that do it, but sin that lives in me.

The soul does not willfully plan to sin, but the power of sin in the flesh causes it to do so.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) lives no good thing: for I want to do what is good; but I am unable to perform it.

I know with my intellect (soul) that my flesh is corrupt. My will (soul) wants to do good; but self (soul under control of flesh) can't.

19 For the good that I (spirit) want to do I (self) don't do: but the evil which I (soul) don't want to do, that I (flesh) do.

20 Now if I (self) do what I (spirit) don't want to do, it is no longer I (soul) that do it, but sin that lives in me (flesh).

21 So I find then a law (the law of sin or the power of sin) , that, when I (soul) want to do good, evil is present with me (flesh). I act like a Christian most of the time, but sometimes I behave like a sinner.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

My soul will's to be a Christian, to obey my spirit.

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

The law of my mind (soul) is to serve God. The law of sin (power of sin) is in my flesh. "Another law" is the self imposed law by which self righteousness is obtained, which is fleshly. (I follow rules therefore I am good).

Why does this happen to the believer? Deliverance from the power of sin is something that has to be desired by the believer. If he/she does not know that they have it they will not be able to experience it. We get things from God by asking with faith. Through the discomfort of inner conflict the Lord initiates the desire for deliverance. The way of deliverance is in obtaining the revelation from the Holy Spirit concerning how Jesus dealt with the old man on the cross. This revelation gives the person the opportunity to believe that he/she possesses the same victory.

(If you seek deliverance from the power of sin in your flesh, pray this prayer: Lord, through your Holy Spirit, give me the revelation of what has happened to my old man. Show me how Jesus died on the cross, how my old man with it's sinful nature died with Him. Show me how the power of sin was made powerless by the cross.

This is my confession: I have died in Christ, and sin (the power of sin), has died with me. But I have a new life, the life of God Himself in my spirit. I am a new man with the divine nature of God, not a sinful nature. The power of the Holy Spirit reigns in me not the power of sin.)

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"THE SPIRITUAL MAN"

by Watchman Nee

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Volume 1. PART TWO:

THE FLESH

Chapter 2

The Fleshly or Carnal Believer

The Sins of the Flesh

The Things of the Flesh

The Necessity for Death

Summary:

THE FLESHLY OR CARNAL BELIEVER

Many believers have not yet come to terms with the significance of Christ's death and resurrection in relation to how it should affect their spiritual walk. They are also slow to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in the principle of death and resurrection. They do not deny themselves to live for God and can be considered as fleshly or carnal Christians. This condition is abnormal. To be a spiritual Christian is considered normal.

Young believers are fleshly until they learn to identify the characteristics of the flesh and how to overcome them. This should not take longer than a few years.

The purpose of our redemption is for fleshly hindrances to be removed so that the Holy Spirit can fully transform us into spiritual Christians. The course of development is; from fleshly sinner we become a fleshly regenerated believer; from here we become a sanctified spiritual Christian.

The reasons for prolonged fleshly Christianity are twofold. The lack of knowledge, on both the individual as well as the leadership on the issue of spirituality. Or, the individual merely lacks interest in being spiritual.

The characteristics of being fleshly are: The inability to portray or live out acquired knowledge about Christianity. What they confess is not proven through their actions. Jealousy and strife accompany the fleshly. Denominationalism is important to them, resulting in dissension. 1 Corinthians 1:12. They are contentious and without love. There is little distinction between them and ordinary people (the unsaved). They remain unchanged from their sinner temperament, temper, selfishness, vainglory and are judgmental and unforgiving. They hold onto worldly manners and are accepted by the world.

It is important not to get caught up with labels. Whether labelled spiritual or carnal is of no consequence. To BE spiritual instead of carnal is of great importance.

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Summary:

THE SINS OF THE FLESH

In Romans 7, Paul describes the war against sin. While living in the flesh, the believer will often be overcome by sin.

There are three main categories of bodily functions that have become media for sin:

Nourishment.

Overeating, drunkenness, and eating disorders are all means by which sin hold people captive.

Reproduction.

This function has become a very broad highway of various degrees of perversion bringing with it countless problems.

Defense.

Defense focuses on the preservation of self. The result is a warped and ungodly perception of self, leading to: self-interest, self-glory, self-existence, self-reliance, self-pity, etc.

The fleshly believer has problems with one or all of these in various degrees.

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Summary:

THE THINGS OF THE FLESH

We have seen that no good thing can come from the flesh. It is unable to please God and is hostile toward Him. It is seen by God as totally worthless, wicked and defiled. It is only when we are shown by the Holy Spirit that we can appreciate how the Father sees the flesh. We need to understand the condition of the flesh, so that we will be moved to deal with it.

The works of the flesh are plain. If any of them are evident in a believer he/she can deduct that they are fleshly. It is more difficult for the individual who commits his/her sin in secret (strife, dissension, party spirit, envy) to realize that they are fleshly than the person whose sins are obvious. Their mere perception of themselves as being superior to the one whose sins are obvious is a sign of fleshlyness.

It's our duty as children of God pray that our eyes be opened that we may see the condition of our being and allow the Holy Spirit to convince and convict us of our sins.

The works of the flesh are divided into five groups:

1.Sins which defile the body. Immorality, impurity, licentiousness. 2.Sinful supernatural communication with satanic forces. Idolatry, sorcery. 3.Sinful temper and its characteristics. Enmity, strife, jealousy, anger. 4.Religious sects and parties. Selfishness, dissensions, party spirit, envy. 5.Lasciviousness. Drunkenness, carousing.

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Summary:

THE NECESSITY FOR DEATH

As we learn more from the Holy Spirit about the corruptness of the flesh, our struggle to overcome it intensifies. The result is the escalation of failures. The defeats suffered exposes more of the flesh, until the believer arrives at the point where, through experiencing the deeper work of the cross he/she is delivered from the power of sin in the flesh. The reason for this process of struggle and failure is that preparation is needed for the deeper work of the cross to bring about the change in the believer.

The preparation of struggle and failure gives the opportunity for the mental or academic knowledge concerning the flesh, (the fact that it's defiled) to become spiritual insight or revelation knowledge.

The lack of spiritual insight and ignorance of the power of salvation causes some believers to think that the flesh can be conquered by battling with it. These believers are under the impression that deliverance depends on their own ability to perform, by applying the law to their flesh. They will pray for "spiritual power" to enable them to subdue the flesh. This extended struggle will produce the conclusion that victory over the flesh is impossible.

Parallel to the struggle is the believer's vain attempt to improve the flesh. By imposing many rules he/she try's to discipline or tame the unruly flesh. He/she views the condition of the flesh as resulting in the lack of rules, education and civilization. They think that spiritual training of the flesh would be the answer to their problems.

Colossians 2:21-23 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!" 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Attempting to destroying and refining of the flesh simultaneously leads to many defeats and self-accusation. The Holy Spirit will allow this to continue until the believer realizes that his/her method of dealing with the flesh is futile. The believer has to come to the point where he/she realizes that victory over the flesh is a freely available gift to everyone that share in the salvation of Christ, and it is gotten hold of by faith.

To know the holiness of the Father is to know the defilement of the flesh. This knowledge is available to all who faithfully and earnestly seek it.

Victory over the flesh is not for it to be conquered but for it to die. We become flesh by being born of it, we are freed from it at the point of death. Crucifixion is the way. Romans 6:7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

No treatment of the flesh besides death is sufficient to render it powerless. Not even the blood of Jesus can make it acceptable to God.

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This page has been revised since first the posting:

last update 10 November 97

The Cross and the Holy Spirit

Things that will prevent you

from realizing the deliverance of the cross:

Deliverance of the cross is twofold, firstly we are forgiven for our sins and secondly we are free from the power of sin.

The lack of trust in God.

The fact that we rely on Him for our very existence. We thank Him for each meal, because He has given us the ability to work. We have to come to the point where we realize that He gave us life, we are His children, and that we are ultimately His responsibility. We are responsible and accountable for our actions, but not for our existence. We have taken this responsibility on ourselves, the result being that we trust self instead of God. This continues into our salvation. We try to earn salvation instead of receiving it in the grace that it is given.

We don't trust because we don't put the Word into practice. We never tithe, so we never see the promise fulfilled. It is easier to walk by sight (self reliance) than by faith (relying on God).

We put our trust in things. Bank account, real estate, job, insurance policy, education, guilds and organizations.

We have no understanding of grace.

How could God send His Son to die for an ungrateful, undeserving, wicked and depraved humanity? Why didn't He squash us like bugs, the way we deserved? Because that is the fleshly solution, and God is divine. What about the time of Noah. Negative,...everyone had a choice. It was no secret that Noah was building a boat. The size of it was advertising enough, and the time it took to build it gave everyone the ample opportunity to choose. Wherever there is repentance God forgives. We can see, God is fair and His grace knows no boundaries. Yet we fail to see that salvation comes purely by faith.

The fear of Judgment.

We fail to recognize that we have been judged in Christ. Our punishment was on Him. We choose to believe that our redemption is subject to our own performance.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no *condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

*condemnation - to judge someone as definitely guilty and thus subject to punishment - 'to condemn, to render a verdict of guilt,

Louw, Johannes P. and Nida, Eugene A., Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains, (New York: United Bible Societies) 1988, 1989.

Not having the assurance or understanding of salvation.

Thinking that you can lose and regain salvation. Thinking you lose your salvation every time you sin. Salvation is complete, nothing can be added or subtracted.

Lack of faith.

Faith works through love. Problems with our love walk will sabotage the ability to use faith.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Repentance and abstinence from worldly contamination. Movies, books and TV shows that entertain by dishing up murder, horror, occult, supernatural evil and insanity will harden our hearts and make it difficult to love.

Not walking by faith.

Being focused on circumstance rather than truth. "I have been crucified, yet I continue sinning." Keeping our eyes on the result of a living flesh instead of the cure (the cross) will prevent us from experiencing the reality of the truth. Our vision is filled failure instead of success.

Not giving the Holy Spirit the opportunity to give us revelations.

Not spending time with Him, one foot in the world, lukewarm, preoccupied with survival.

Living by the law.

Two husbands, Jesus and law.

The misconception that we can somehow pay for our own sins.

Thinking that we are able to make retribution or do penance for our own sins through sacrifice. Giving money or inflicting self punishment to soothe a guilty conscience is both unscriptural as well as an insult to Jesus. We can do nothing to redeem ourselves, He has already done everything.

The fear of losing our individuality.

Do we really believe that a supremely intelligent divine being would go to the trouble of creating us with a personality, free will, creativity and intellect if He never intended for us to use it?

The fear of losing out on fun.

Everything in the world is superficial and transient. Fun is the world's counterfeit to joy. Fun comes and goes, joy is eternal.

Not willing to pay the price.

Hosea 4:66 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge

We try to put a price to living a supernatural, divine life. Ridiculous. We are clueless to what the Lord has installed for those who are willing to follow Him.

"THE
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Volume 1. PART TWO:

THE FLESH

Chapter 3

The Cross and the Holy Spirit

The Deliverance of the Cross

The Holy Spirit and Experience

The Existence of the Flesh

Summary:

THE CROSS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

This chapter explains how a Christian goes about getting delivered from the power of the flesh (power of sin).

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Summary:

THE DELIVERANCE OF THE CROSS

The believer is concerned with the works of the flesh were as God is concerned with the source of the works which is flesh itself. The believer tries to get relief by treating the symptoms of cancer while God wants to remove the cancer altogether.

Galatians 5:19-21 is a list of products of the flesh: Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness and orgies. Where we try to deal with each one individually, God deals with the source. Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

The meaning of the cross is that the old man has been crucified with Jesus. The believer is born again and his sins are forgiven, at the same time the old man dies. The powerful passions and desires of the flesh, the power of sin (power of the flesh) are all part of the old man. The old man is the flesh. Positionally (in Christ) this part of us is dead. We experience this death (freedom from the flesh) when we accept crucifixion of the old man as an accomplished fact (by faith).

It is important to see that deliverance from the flesh only comes by believing. We need to have faith in the effectiveness of the cross. The cross has already dealt with the flesh. The fact is that we have been crucified. We experience a life filled with many sins because we concentrate on the symptoms of the problem instead of the fact that the source of the problem has already been dealt with. 2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight. When we walk by what we see, we will not be putting our faith to work.

(Personal notes: Every time we sin we feel guilty. We're disgusted with ourselves and start doubting the extent of God's love. "I've committed the same sin so many times, will He forgive me again?". This can be a real problem if we don't know how the cross is supposed to work. We get forgiveness of sins by the blood that was shed and we get free from the power of sin by the death of Jesus. By faith we take forgiveness but we should also take the death. Taking the death is an act of faith. We have to keep our "eyes" on the fact that the power of sin is dead (crucified) and not on it's product (sins). "...by faith, not by sight".

In the same way you confess prosperity and health to manifest in your life, confess that your flesh has been crucified). "God says my flesh has been crucified so I believe it is crucified. I acknowledge that what God says is true." The lie is that we must suffer the corruption (decaying nature) of the flesh. Sickness, poverty etc. The truth is that we have become children of God. Royalty. Matthew 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! The lie is that we have to struggle with sin until we are in heaven, the truth is that sins AND SIN has been dealt with on the cross.

Apply the Word of God and you will see results. Take the focus off of your own performance and experience, and concentrate on what the Word declares about the situation. Do not get discouraged by what you see, rather persevere in declaring the truth according to the Word. (Remember this is a personal experience and the confession is for your own benefit, not for the convincing of those around you that you are free from the power of sin).

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Summary:

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCE

Romans 7:5-6 For when we were controlled by the flesh, the sinful passions... were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying...." It is this death that revokes the power by which the flesh rules, making it powerless to dominate.

Jesus has made it possible for us to have victory over the flesh. Not theoretically or only under perfect conditions but in actuality for practical everyday life. For the cross to be effective relies on our attitude toward this opportunity of freedom. If we pursue this truth it will become our experience. First we must believe that it is true. Secondly we have to desire for it to become a reality with the evidence of experience. Thirdly we have to cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:3 For you are dead... (Crucified with Christ). 5 Therefore put to death your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

The death in vs.3 Is our factual position. The death in verse vs.5 is the act of putting the first death to work and experiencing the results thereof. Make sure you understand the difference between the two, how they work and that they have to work together.

Trying to put the works of the flesh to death is futile. First the flesh dies then the works of the flesh becomes automated acts of habit. To put an end to these is not a struggle, but needs awareness and vigilance. Having the revelation of the cross and not putting it into practice will result in the flesh resuming it's dominant role.

Revelation of the position of the flesh (that it's dead) gives us the ability to deal with it's legacy of sin. Knowing that the flesh is dead is not the same as perceiving. Seek the revelation by cooperating with the Holy Spirit. Putting to death is only possible, once you have died.

Putting to death means bringing the death of Jesus to erase all that belongs to the flesh. Nothing of the flesh can remain after encountering the crucifixion of Jesus. Because of our unity with Jesus we have the right to apply the cross to any member that displays characteristics of the flesh. The revelation that we are united with the Lord in His death is makes the power of the cross a weapon that our spirit uses against any fleshly activity.

Because the members that were formerly under the power of the flesh have automated habit patterns that conform to a sinful nature, it is vital that these activities be constantly "put to death". Left alone they will escalate and once again become powerful enough to oppose the spirit, eventually reinstating the flesh to rule the being.

How do we apply the crucifixion and sustain the victory we have over the flesh? Romans 8:13 ... if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body... Through cooperation with the Holy Spirit, Who uses the authority of the crucifixion to eradicate

the remnants of the flesh; we can remain free it's domination. The Holy Spirit administers the death of the cross on everything we bring before Him.

Romans 8:5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

(Personal Note: Be aware that the flesh is very slippery and deceptive in it's quest to rule. When left unchecked it will not oppose the spirit with an obvious sin such as stealing or sexual perversion. Rather it will slip in with subtlety such as a criticism or judgment disguised as a negative remark in a normal conversation.)

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Summary:

THE EXISTENCE OF THE FLESH

The flesh under the power of the cross becomes so weak that a believer might think that it no longer exists. This is a big mistake because the moment we become complacent toward the flesh it will quietly sneak back into a place where it can work from to regain it's position of power. The flesh is ever present waiting for an opportunity to become active.

The flesh rightfully abides in the body. It will only be removed once the body dies physically. Our body still awaits redemption. 1 Corinthians 15:22.

While the body awaits redemption, we walk IN the flesh, but we do not walk BY the flesh.

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

Romans 8:4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The malignancy of the flesh requires that we allow the Holy Spirit to continually apply the "finished work of the cross" to it. We should never assume that the flesh has been eradicated, no matter how victorious we become spiritually with the evidence of sanctification.

To prove that the flesh is malignant we can look at the children of which the parents live in complete victory over the flesh. The children are fleshly because "that which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). Parents do not have the ability to impart the divine nature of God received at regeneration because it is a gift that God gives to those who accept Jesus. What does get passed on from the parents is the sinful nature of the flesh.

Although it is possible to live sinless it is impossible to live beyond the possibility of sin. We have been delivered from the tendency to sin but not from the ability to sin. Having victory over the flesh is truly glorious but even in the highest state of holiness evil may creep in unconsciously, ungodly words may be spoken unknowingly, the will might resist the prompting of the Holy Spirit or thoughts of self-sufficiency could awaken. This indicates that the flesh can at any time try to resurrect itself.

It must be noted that this malignancy of the flesh does not prevent total sanctification. The cross really does leave the flesh totally powerless, but not indefinitely. It has the ability to come back to life. This is why it is important to follow the Holy Spirit. As we cooperate with Him, His activity increases, and His presence enforces the power of the cross on our members constantly.

To keep on being victorious over the flesh we must realize that our will is constantly active to choose. Do we follow God or do we follow the world. God or flesh. God or self. God or His creation. By continually saying "yes" to God, everything else gets a "NO". (Be very sure you understand the order of yes and no because to turn these around you will be living by rules, not by the Spirit).

The continual persistence of the flesh to regain authority is not a phenomenon which brings despair, but watchfulness and awareness. If we are diligent and earnestly desire to live a supernatural life by putting an end to the activities of the flesh we shall indeed experience the finished work of the cross.

The ball is in our court. God has done everything necessary for us to live in victory. If we persist in living by the flesh it is because we want to, not because we have to. Living in the Spirit reduces the power of the flesh to practically zero. The persistent putting to death by the cross gives the illusion that the flesh has been completely erased. It loses all resistance and leaves the believer free to experience the tremendous life of the Spirit. This life is the destiny of all believers.

Where is my spirit and How do I hear the Holy Spirit?

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The Boasting of the Flesh

WARNING!

From personal experience and that of others that have seen and experienced similar results in connection to this chapter, I want to issue a warning. If you have not yet had positive results from applying the knowledge from preceding chapters (especially crucifying the flesh), you can expect a negative reaction from your flesh after reading this chapter.

You can expect depression, despondency and passivity. The way to prevent this is by expecting this reaction, and combatting it by cooperating with the Holy Spirit.

If you are in a good works program, do not allow despondency to set in. Do not give up immediately, but instead seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your situation. Remain in the program, but be open to suggestions from the Holy Spirit to move to something else or change the way you do things.

Beware of passivity. The Spirit will not lead you to do nothing. This is where Satan wants you, passive, despondent and depressed. The reason your flesh reacts the way it does should be seen as an effective measure of the level of it's activity. Remember that your flesh is constantly attempting to sabotage your spiritual walk, nail it to the cross.

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 Volume 1. PART TWO:

THE FLESH

Chapter 4

The Boasting of the Flesh

The Other Side of the Flesh

The Nature of the Good Works of the Flesh

The Sins which Follow

Summary:

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FLESH

Apart from the sinful characteristics of the flesh it also comprises of the self of the flesh. This is the part of the flesh which is closely entwined with the soul. Defiling sins are evidence of the unrighteous works of the flesh. The self-righteous works of the flesh can be seen in it's ability to produce commendable morals; the high and noble; and good intentions.

The self of the flesh although unacceptable by God (filthy rags) is not necessarily sinful but because it is part of the flesh it remains hostile towards Him. Isaiah 64:6 and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; Opposition of the flesh against the Holy Spirit is seen in lawlessness as well as in law abiding. Salvation is not received as a gift but worked for. The emphasis is not on grace or Jesus but on independence or self-dependence. Self-will is raised above God's will.

Self may serve God, but only according to the agenda that suits self. It could be totally committed to serving God and does so fervently, always relying on it's own ability and strength to do so. The Holy Spirit is ignored completely.

The flesh is deceptive in that it can produce both good and evil. It's good works only prove that it has not yet died. To leave it to do good works will only result in evil to be produced as well.

The believer hates sin and desires to be delivered from it and its works. What he/she admires is righteousness and spends a lot of energy to act righteous. What happens is that the sins of the flesh are fought but the acts of righteousness that comes from it are embraced. What the believer should seek is a revelation of the totality of the flesh and liberation from it.

Unless the good of the flesh is dealt with no lasting victory over it can be established.

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Summary:

THE NATURE OF GOOD WORKS OF THE FLESH

The problem with the good works that come from the flesh is that it has self at it's center. Whether good or bad the flesh is unacceptable to God. We have no way of becoming supernatural beings while we still have any confidence in the flesh. God wants us to be released completely from the old creation so that we can live the supernatural godly life He destined for us.

When It is I who decide to do good without relying on God for guidance to what good I should do according to His plan. It is my plan instead of God's plan and the result is self glory? Deeds that have their origin in self only puffs up self.

God requires us to be completely dependant on Him. He has a plan and we have the privilege of being part of it. What a tremendous honor and exiting gift. God Almighty is busy saving humanity from the consequences of sin and He has made it possible for us to join Him. The flesh, unable to comprehend the magnitude of this honor foolishly tries to do this task in it's own strength, trying to usurp some tinsel glory for itself.

God's wisdom is Christ crucified. We can add absolutely nothing to the crucifixion. We can only enjoy the countless benefits of it by accepting it. In the same way I can add nothing to my salvation, what "wisdom" can I add to God's plan. What clever use of words can bring the life of God to people. The reliance on our own ability's instead of the Holy Spirit will result in wood, hay and stubble.

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Christ crucified is also the power of God. This is the power to bring life. From the flesh no life can come. Yet we see so much being done for God or in the name of God which originate in the flesh. God does not appose the good works, but He cannot accept them because they come from the flesh and flesh is opposed to Him in every way.

(Personal note: The reason God wants us to trust in Him completely and not to lean on our own understanding is because our understanding can be corrupted by the flesh. The way we need to rely totally on Him for our daily life comes from the way we have to rely totally on Him for our salvation. This is the key to freedom. The moment we realize that there is nothing we can add to our salvation, all pressure is relieved. We don't do good works because it effects our salvation. Nothing but blasphemy of the Holy Spirit can change any aspect of our salvation. We do good works because they are part of the course of our destiny).

To test a work to see if it comes from God or from self measure the amount of dependency. Are we depending on God or self. Self is never dependant on God, it is impatient and it's traits are self-confidence and self-reliance.

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by the flesh?

This is another common problem facing those who do not recognize the flesh. A new revelation from the Holy Spirit is turned into a boasting of the flesh. We start off in the Spirit; He transforms us from a worldly person (hating that which we first loved and loving that which we first hated) into a God loving person. Then we start entertaining ideas that He has done this because we are somehow special in some or other way. Even to the point that we think it is out of our own uniqueness that we have become "godly". Enter self-trust, exit Holy Spirit trust.

Why do so many Christians fail to be consecrated and live the abundant life? With any seeking believer the Lord reveals the possibility and simplicity of such a life. These glorious experiences soon dissappear when they try to finish in the flesh which was begun in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is replaced by self. There is no waiting on the Lord. It is impossible to follow the Holy Spirit without denying self.

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Summary:

THE SINS WHICH FOLLOW

The flesh will try to establish it's own righteousness by works. It will serve God in order to survive the cross, whereby giving the power of sin an opportunity to be strengthened. Victory over sin depends on the way to victory (the cross) to sustain it; not by determination and works. (Works ordained by God, are a result of victory). The result of works done in the flesh is the recurring of sins; the person becomes despondent, concluding that sustained victory over the flesh is impossible; or, they become delusional by not admitting to their sin, believing that their works have the power to justify them.

The cause of this failure is obvious. The strength to do good and the power to commit sins have the same source of energy. When the flesh is not given the opportunity to sin it will do good. Instead of dying it is kept alive by doing good. It soon reverts to sin because that is it's nature.

The flesh is where Satan works to destroy the the believer. Where there is no life in the flesh, Satan is unable to operate. He will allow the flesh to do good, only because he then still has a foothold from which he can recover what he has lost. Not only a position for him to work from, but the flesh can recover it's position of power over the whole being if it succeeds in usurping all aspects of worshipping God from the Holy Spirit.

This is why the Holy Spirit needs to be in full control. He maintains victory over the flesh by constantly applying the cross as we allow Him. We deny our self before God by allowing the Holy Spirit to put to death the schemes and plans of self. Denying ourselves before God enables us to deny ourselves before people. These two are inseparable and the result is that selfishness becomes selflessness, prejudice becomes acceptance, hatred becomes love.

An example of this phenomenon is seen in Galatians. Sin became active (5:15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, ...) because the where trying to complete the work that the Holy Spirit started with their flesh (6:12-13 Those who want to make a good showing in the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh). Their successes in doing good by the flesh were getting fewer. Failure in overcoming sin escalated. By serving God with their own ideas and strength they were unintentionally serving sin in the flesh. Neglecting to forbid the flesh to do good, they were unable to prevent it from doing evil. They did not make the connection that "serving God in the flesh" (boasting about circumcision), was the same thing that empowered sin. Sin empowered aroused their aggression toward one another. They could not accomplish what the holy Spirit had begun as well as put the works of the flesh to death, because they were trying to do both by the flesh.

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The Believer's Ultimate Attitude toward the Flesh

Note:

Please first read about what the reaction of your flesh will be when confronted by the following material.

Boasting of the Flesh (Previous chapter)

"THE

SPIRITUAL MAN"

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Volume 1. PART TWO:

THE FLESH

Chapter 5

The Believer's Ultimate Attitude toward the Flesh

God's View of the Flesh

The Believers Experience

The Cross and the Deeper Work of the Holy Spirit

Words of Exhortation

Summary:

GOD'S VIEW OF THE FLESH

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

The flesh is totally useless. Whether in sin or in acts of righteousness, it has no spiritual use whatsoever. Whenever the flesh is busy, whether in the pulpit, audience, prayer, consecration, Bible study, praise and worship or doing good deeds it is of no value to God.

Romans 8:6

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

The activities of the flesh produce death. No matter how skilled the flesh is to draw the approval of man it is only good for nailing to the cross.

Romans 8:7

the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

The more we rely on the flesh the less peace we have. There is no peaceful co-existence between God and the flesh. Apart from defiling sins, even the noblest thoughts and actions originating from the flesh causes friction.

Romans 8:7

the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

The only flesh that God accepts is dead flesh, so the more effective the flesh becomes in its works the further it moves from God. A good person that rejects the righteousness that comes from believing in Jesus, tries to establish their own righteousness. This is self-righteousness and such a righteousness is in fact unrighteousness.

The bad transgresses the law. The good tries to establish a righteousness outside of Christ, missing the purpose of the law, which is to bring the knowledge of sin.

Romans 8:8

Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God.

This applies to both the unbeliever and the believer. We distinguish between good and evil works. God goes deeper and finds the source of the works. He is as displeased with the good as He is with the evil that comes out of the flesh. Everything done without completely trusting in the Holy Spirit is carnal and rejected by God. There is only one verdict and subsequent judgement: the flesh must die.

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Summary:

THE BELIEVER'S EXPERIENCE

The only way we will ever understand how defiled the flesh is, is by the Holy Spirit showing us. We reject the bad things of the flesh, but hold on to the good things, deceived by self that accomplishment in our spiritual walk is a reason for being self satisfied.

Being self confident and proud about spiritual success however legitimate and God given is a function of the flesh. To overcome this phenomenon the Spirit has to expose it to us by allowing us to suffer defeat. God allows the flesh to manifest and prove it's valueless, by giving the soul over to fall, weaken and even to sin. (He does not cause us to sin, He merely does not intervene to prevent the natural course of action of the flesh). Even to think we are progressing spiritually will cause us to be confronted with a manifestation of the flesh because this kind of thinking has its foundation in pride. The Lord allows us to fail to expose the attitude of our heart.

In some cases the Lord will permit Satan to attack us so that we may perceive ourselves out of the suffering. This is a difficult truth to learn and does not come within a few days, (vagueness intended). It takes years to realize how deceitful the flesh can be. The reason it is so difficult, is because the good of the flesh is a disguise of true righteousness. To make the statement "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh..." (Romans 7:18), unfortunately can not be a confession of faith. We learn this truth from experimental experience.

Defeat for the diligent seeker is proof that the flesh (self righteousness) is totally undependable. Defeat (however much is necessary) is for us to learn about the uselessness of the flesh. After learning this truth, we never stop judging the flesh as detestable and useless. If we should even slightly become self flattering or vainglorious we will soon again start suffering defeat until we resume our stance in opposition to the flesh.

Lacking in an attitude of self judgement (humility) will allow us to once again to become boastful in the flesh.

Anyone aspiring to become spiritually mature needs to keep in mind what Paul said. "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." (Philippians 3:12). The slightest activity of self that can stir up the flesh has to be avoided with alertness. Self confidence, self satisfaction and self joy must be identified and put to death immediately. Perceiving one's self as more "advanced" or esteeming one's self better spiritually equipped than others is a definite route to failure. Having the Holy Spirit reveal God's holiness next to our own corruption, will result in our clearly perceiving the corruption of our flesh, exposing the significance of why we need to oppose it. The sooner we experience this the less defeats we will suffer.

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Summary:

THE CROSS AND THE DEEPER WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The work of the cross made us free from the power of sin. The deeper work of the cross made us free from self righteousness. (I put this in the past tense because it is a positional accomplished fact, it is up to the believer to take hold of it). In the same way we walk by the Spirit not to go after the flesh to sin, we follow the Spirit not to go after the flesh to self righteousness.

The final accomplishment of the cross is complete, nothing can be added or subtracted. In the believer the cross should be experienced as continually penetrating deeper and deeper, being used by the Holy Spirit to teach what has been accomplished by it. (The fact that the bad AS WELL AS the good of the flesh must die).

It is important that the reader should have at this stage experienced some of the power of the cross (with the evidence of some victory over the flesh), and have some knowledge of the all inclusive function of the cross. The cross is what the Holy Spirit uses to bring about the death of the flesh and knowledge of this is the basis from which the He works. The believer should have realized that it is not only the "passions and desires", but the flesh itself with all it's power to produce righteousness included that has to go to the cross. We must enter the place where we are ready to deny ALL the flesh, if we desire to please our Father and live the supernatural life made possible by Jesus.

What is the experience of one who refuses to give up the good of the flesh?

The power to do good in the flesh goes only as far as what suits the flesh. The call to lose face, property, status, loved one's or our own life cannot be fulfilled by the power of the flesh. "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (Matt 26:41).

What are the good works of the flesh?

- Any activity entered because we expect recognition or admiration is from the flesh.
- If we "WILL" something by the flesh. (John 1:13 "the will of the flesh"). The flesh has the ability to decide, plan and execute a good deed to win God's favour. (Some even go as far as thinking they are doing God a favour, can use good works as a bargaining tool with God or expects a favour in return.)
- Self confidence is trusting in one's own knowledge of the Bible presuming that we know God's will and what kind of service He requires of us. [Colossians 2:18 "the mind of the flesh" (Darby)].
- (2 Corinthians 1:12 "fleshly wisdom"). To perceive knowledge gained by human wisdom as a spiritual revelation is a subtle cause for a believer to try and perfect with his flesh what was initiated by the Holy Spirit. All truths need to be enlivened by the Lord on a continual basis or they will be of no use. Even our own wisdom must be nailed to the cross. This is not necessarily sin but the inevitable consequence of relying on the natural life.
- (Colossians 2:23 "self-imposed worship,"). This is not scriptural or Holy Spirit guided worship, making it fleshly and useless. (This kind of worship is usually accompanied with pomp and ceremony or rituals not unlike the pagan forms from which they originate).

The "life" of the flesh.

This natural life has to be given up by the believer if he/she desires to live a supernatural life from the spirit. The natural life may assist the believer to serve God but he/she will not gain complete victory over the flesh while this life can be drawn upon.

Of the two life principles which exist in the born again believer, many of us live off both. Nothing seems stable, our plans change from day to day. When we accept God's will we start moving forward. Letting go of our own agenda and allowing the cross, like the circumcision knife, to cut deep and clean into our being, removing everything of the flesh. Because the cross and the curse go together (Galatians 3:13); when we consign our flesh to the cross we also give it over to the curse of God. Through this we acknowledge that nothing useful can come from it.

To be crucified with Christ is: To have a revelation of the condition of the flesh; that it is unprofitable to the spirit and spiritual work; have the same view of it that God has of it; know and accept the curse (the curse of death) that it deserves. We have been taught on prosperity and healing, but there can be no real abundant life (resurrection life) before there has been a death (crucifixion). In order to have the life of Christ manifest through our members we need to have assigned the life that was present in our members before regeneration to the cross. ("accursed of God" Hebrews 12:2)

Prayer: Lord please show me what my flesh is and how it should be crucified. Show me how important this death is. (Before we pray this we should have a willingness to accept the humiliation of the cross. If we suffer from a big ego or take pride in our spiritual maturity we have to expect them to be exposed and must not shrink away from being delivered from the deception of the flesh).

If we need to experience the death of the cross before we can experience the joy of resurrection it is correct to say we need to apply the death continually to maintain resurrection life. Death is the foundation of all spirituality and without it the "ascended realm" will never be experienced. To neglect the death and presumptuously move into "resurrection life" results in the flesh triumphing in the situation. Consequently the things of the flesh are spiritualized, there is no separation between flesh and spirit. (This is a common condition in all who serve "God" outside of Jesus. Not that it only occurs in false religion, born again Christians can suffer the same delusion if they don't apply the principal of dying to self).

If we ever get to the point where we think the flesh has no more power to entice us, we are in danger of losing the foundation of our freedom and becoming outwardly spiritual but inwardly carnal. We are in the most danger of being deceived by the flesh when we're on the verge of being delivered from it. Abiding in the death of Jesus is vital.

Our security lies in our trust that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into righteousness. There is safety in submissiveness, readiness to be taught and being alert to the activity of the flesh. As we submit to the Word and apply it we can trust the Holy Spirit to apply the death of Jesus which will have the life of Jesus soon to follow. Instead of filled with the flesh we are filled with the Holy Spirit. When we give the Holy Spirit the opportunity by co-operating with Him and giving Him complete control of our being, He overthrows the power of the flesh resulting in Jesus being manifested in us. (Casting out demons, walking on water, exercising dominion over nature, raising the dead, etc, etc). Because our foundation is "I have been crucified in Christ" (Galatians 2:20), we will be living the "life I now live in the flesh is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

With an attitude of faith and obedience we can expect the Holy Spirit to perform the death and resurrection in us, leading us from glory to glory. As we yield to to the leading of the Holy Spirit, He will display Jesus in our life because this is His task.

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Summary:

WORDS OF EXHORTATION

Circumcision of the heart becomes a reality as we allow the Holy Spirit do a deeper work by the cross. "For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:1). Confidence in the flesh destroys the victorious life in Jesus. If we allow the Holy Spirit to humble the flesh He will glorify Jesus through us.

We have to discern between flesh and spirit so that we can worship in the spirit. We must patiently seek the truth (impatience is fleshly). We must pray and trust the Lord to lead us into truth. Not lose perseverance and try different "methods" of obtaining spirituality. The only method is death and resurrection. We have to distrust the flesh completely. Assigning the flesh to the curse of death and humbly co-operating with the holy spirit will strip it from all it's power.

We have to watch for the unconscious stirring of the flesh that will try to make us believe that the victory brought about by the Holy Spirit is of our own doing. Following victory over the flesh, we must be on guard against over confidence. After we've learnt how to and experienced sustained victory we must never forget it's malignant nature. The flesh will never give up in it's quest to rule the being. Independence from the Holy Spirit will quickly afford the flesh an opportunity to regain power. This is not instantaneous, but left unchecked it can accumulate enough power to take complete control, even to the point of committing the most defiling sins.

We must learn to cultivate an attitude of complete dependency on the Holy Spirit. We have to learn to recognize any form of carnal thinking. Carnal thoughts lead to carnal deeds. We must learn to guard our conversation. Any plans, however commendable, not initiated by the Holy Spirit should be thrown out. The best that the flesh has to offer should immediately be put to death. The basic fact that it comes from the flesh makes it unacceptable. Sin and the righteousness of the flesh should be treated in the same way. we need to repent from the "good" works as much as sin.

When we fail, we examine ourselves, confess the sin and request the cleansing power of the blood. We seek not only to be cleansed from sin but from every deed of the flesh.

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Perception, confession and Faith.

Personal Notes.

A practical technique in the process of renewing the mind is positive reinforcement of concepts through the isolation and re-identification of terminology.

The flesh consists of various elements that need to be addressed in the quest for renewed thinking and spiritual victory.

The first is the "nature of the flesh". Synonymous terminology are the "sinful nature" or "human nature" or "earthly nature" or "corrupt nature". These terms all have the word "nature" which imply a characteristic trait. Another element of the flesh is the "power of the flesh" or the "power of sin". Both "nature of the flesh" and "power of the flesh" refer to the same thing, flesh.

Now according to the Word we who are saved have received the "divine nature of God". So we have two natures, the one leads to destruction and the other to life and victory. What we need to do is reinforce the positive concept.

Especially because we still possess the sinful nature of the flesh it is important that we stop referring to it as "OUR" sinful nature. By constantly referring to it we are making a confession and reinforcing a way of thinking about ourselves. This is counter productive toward renewed thinking. What we do is isolate the terminology and redefine it. So whenever we refer to the flesh we call it the "power of sin in the flesh" or "the power of the flesh", not "our sinful nature". Whenever we talk about our nature, we say "I have the divine nature of God".

This technique is vital in building our faith and the perception of our salvation. We have been taught on positive confession, and we know it will work wether Word based or not. What we need to do is confess the Word of God in our lives. Especially when faced with the option of more than one possibility. I have a sinful nature and I have a divine nature, obviously there is more benefit in confessing the one over the other.

We need to speak things that aren't as though they were. This is putting faith to work. The result is the manifestation of God's supernatural truth over the temporary and decaying physical realm.

Positional Situation of Believers

Perception, confession and Faith

Where is my spirit and How do I hear the Holy Spirit?

The positional situation of Christians is known as the "In Him" principal. Outside of Christ we are lost. In Christ we have positional status because when we accept Him as Saviour we become part of Him and He part of us. We make covenant with Him, meaning what is ours is His and what is His is ours. The following is a number of things we obtain through the "In Him" principal.

Grace.

- Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Justification.

•Galatians 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Sanctification.

- 1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, ...

Righteousness.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Redemption and Forgiveness.

•Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

The old and the new.

Eternal life.

- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Freedom from the power of sin.

- Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Death of the old life resurrection of the new life.

•2 Corinthians 4:10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

A new creation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Resurrected from spiritual death.

•2 Corinthians 13:4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in Him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.

The power to change.

•Ephesians 4:21-24 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

All the promises are ours.

•2 Corinthians 1:20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. •Ephesians 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Freedom.

•Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Freedom and confidence to approach Almighty God.

•Ephesians 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Freedom from the law.

•Romans 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. •Colossians 2:14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. •Galatians 3:22&23 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

Freedom from dependence on the flesh.

•Philippians 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh-- •Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Wisdom.

•Ephesians 1:8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Understanding.

•Ephesians 1:8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. •2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

The knowledge of the mystery of His will.

•Ephesians 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms ours in Christ.

•Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Seated in the heavenly realms (ascended).

•Galatians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

The gift of the Holy Spirit.

•Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Great power.

•Ephesians 1:19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. •Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Children of God.

•Ephesians 1:5 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

Taking part of a purposeful plan, giving purpose to life.

•Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

A possession of God.

•Ephesians 1:14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory. •2 Corinthians 1:21&22 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Peace.

•Philippians 4:6&7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

An amazing inheritance.

•Colossians 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Rescued from darkness into light.

•Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, inseparable from Jesus. •Romans 8:39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Royal Family of God.

•Romans 12:5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. •Galatians 2:19-22 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Joy.

•Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Enriched.

•1 Corinthians 1:5 For in Him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge--

Triumph.

•2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

Hope in the glory that is coming.

•Philippians 3:13 ...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. •20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

[Positional and experiential- Dictionary]

Where is my spirit and

How do I hear the Holy Spirit?

Personal Notes.

First of all I would like to issue a warning concerning hearing from the Holy Spirit. Be very careful. Before you attempt to hear from Him, you should have a good knowledge of the Bible.

When you move into the territory of the spirit you WILL be confronted by Satan and his demons. This is not something to fear because they are there weather you like it or not. I just want to forewarn you that you can expect to hear from him. When you encounter him refer back to the Word because this is your safeguard.

The Holy Spirit will never contradict the Word. Satan always misquotes and twists the Word in order to bring confusion and unbelief. Another important aspect of Satan is to remember that he works through deception. He will not say "hello I'm Satan", he will come as an angel or disguised as something "friendly". He will even go as far as impersonating the Holy Spirit. This is how you identify him, because his evil nature can never portray the loving gentleness of the Holy Spirit. This is why it's important to know your Bible. It is the way you learn what God's character is like.

The Holy Spirit will always lead, never force or control. He will never manipulate you, or motivate through fear. He is not persistent or overbearing. He will suggest a course of action once and leave it for you to make a choice.

A typical way for Satan to deceive is by telling you that you are different and more spiritual than those around you. That you are "chosen" for a special revelation that will not be understood by others, it is so deep you will not even find it in the Bible. That you can expect persecution from your own church because you are so special and they are too fleshly to understand. He will puff up your pride with false humility and tell you all kinds of lies to win you over.

If you have the slightest doubt about whom you are encountering in your spiritual life, expose the individual. The Holy Spirit welcomes the interaction and communication between the members of the Body. Satan will want you to hide him and keep your communications with him a secret.

If you receive a revelation, take it to your spiritual leader and ask if it is scriptural. Share your experiences with a person in leadership. Don't live in isolation. Remember it is impossible for you to have a revelation that makes you right and everyone else wrong.

What if you are in a dead church, and what is a dead church?

A dead church does not preach the salvation message of Jesus Christ. It does not preach the way of the cross. There is no mention of the blood of Jesus. There is no growth, no new members join and nobody gets saved. Tradition is put before Biblical precepts. The format is ridged, there is no opportunity for the Holy Spirit to participate or lead the meetings.

What if you are in a dead church?

Find a live church or start a live church, which ever way the Spirit leads you.

How do I hear the Holy Spirit?

Through your own spirit, in the faculty of intuition.

How does my intuition work?

It is in your mind where you believe something and in your spirit where you know something. How do you know you are saved or that Jesus is real? You just know, that you know, that you know. It is in your spirit where this knowledge resides. It is something you feel with your heart. Intuition can manifest as spontaneous thought in your mind, but it's origin is in your heart. You just know that the thought did not come from your own intellect or memory.

Intuition requires faith. Your flesh and mind will almost always challenge what you perceive with your intuition. This is another reason why you must know the Bible. Circumstance and positional truth more often than not will contradict each other. The Holy Spirit tells you through your intuition to do something by faith which goes against the "good judgement of your education". For example: Backing off during an argument when you know you are right in order to prevent a fight or ego (self) to be the victor at the cost of someone else. There is no good reason for you to do this, when you're right you're right, right? No, it is more important for us to build and maintain meaningful relationships than to look good or clever.

It is through your intuition where all incoming communication from the Holy Spirit is received.

How does the Holy Spirit speak to us?

•A spontaneous thought or idea. •An inner witness (you just know something). •Visions and dreams.

How do I learn to hear Him?

The Holy Spirit will start His communication with you by first convicting you of sins. He does this by reminding you of what you have read in the Bible. When you start heeding His convictions and become more sensitive to His suggestions, He will start forewarning you of situations that could lead to compromise through dreams or any other way He sees fit. It depends on time frames and relevancy. He could use a dream to warn you of something that is a month or a year away, or use an inner witness to lead you in a specific moment.

Visions usually go with prophecy or a word of knowledge and accompanies personal ministry. This is not a rule. They also occur during praise and worship or prayer.

Spontaneous thoughts can occur anytime but will be prevalent during the time (quiet time) you spend with Him to build your relationship and be taught from the Word. When you preach, teach or share the Word with others you will sometimes be amazed at the knowledge that comes from your own mouth. This is when a spontaneous idea, given by the Holy Spirit is directly translated into speech without you having to figure it out beforehand.

By looking at these notes you should be able to recognize instances when the Spirit has talked to you.

When does the Holy Spirit talk to us? Whenever we're available to listen.

Why doesn't He just talk in plain English? God is a whole lot bigger than language. To say that God is a multi faceted, super intelligent, abundantly resourceful and supernaturally creative being is an understatement. We have only recently discovered body language. For centuries we were communicating in a language that everyone understood but no one recognized. We are a lot more resourceful than we realize, so why should God limit Himself.

Where is my spirit?

Our spirit is as active as our body and soul, we just need to start recognizing it. The same way we subconsciously send communications with our body, our spirit is constantly busy giving and receiving communication God. Someone lies to you, and you know that person's lying. You get a premonition of a bad situation. Every time your conscience tells you something. Every time you pray, praise or worship God you are using your spirit. Intuition is where you hear from God, communion is where you talk to God and conscience is your spiritual memory bank and knowledge base.

--- Freedom from the Occult

Help!

I AM NOT an expert on the subject, but this material is useful and will give positive results when applied. I will greatly appreciate any input to broaden my knowledge on the subject and to make this site as comprehensive as possible.

If you can supply testimony to validate anything mentioned in the "list of occult practices" it will bless many. I have received a certain amount of resistance to what is classified as occult practices. The only thing that seems to convince people is personal testimony. (You can remain anonymous if you choose).

If I have anything wrong, please let me know.

rico@hixnet.co.za

The Basics:

WHAT DOES OCCULT MEAN?

It means hidden or beyond human understanding and comes from the Latin *occultus*, meaning to conceal or cover up.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

The problem with the occult is that all of its practices expose us to the supernatural without the protection of God.

WHAT IS THE SUPERNATURAL?

It's the spiritual realm. We can't see it but we can see the evidence of its existence. Like the propeller of an aircraft. It moves too fast to be seen, but you can feel the wind it makes.

We experience the physical realm with our five physical senses. We experience the spiritual realm with our three spiritual organs; Intuition, conscience and communion.

WHAT ABOUT GOD?

Whenever God reveals Himself through supernatural manifestations there is no question that it is Him. There is ample evidence in the Bible of how God does things. He is a supernatural God and He wants us to experience the supernatural under His protection. He gives very clear instructions in the Bible about every aspect of the subject.

WHY DO WE NEED PROTECTION?

Satan is also a supernatural being, and he's main occupation is to hurt God's favorite creation, namely us.

HOW CAN SATAN HARM US?

We give him permission by getting involved with occult practices.

WHAT ARE OCCULT PRACTICES?

These are things we get involved with that exposes us to the spiritual realm outside the protection of God. They rely on "unexplained power" to operate. They sometimes give the participant "special powers or occult ability's".

Look at the list of occult practices.

WHAT ARE OCCULT ABILITY'S?

An occult ability comes as an attachment of a demonic being. This means that the person who does something using a supernatural "talent", is doing it by the power of a demonic being. The demon does not necessarily possess the person but it has permission to live inside the user's body.

Acts 16:16-18 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shows unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

WHAT IS OCCULT KNOWLEDGE?

It's the same as an ability or power and its used by satan to draw people under his own power.

ARE ALL OCCULT PRACTICES HARMFUL?

Yes, this is why they're forbidden. By getting involved with them, we give satan the right to interfere with our lives.

I'M A CHRISTIAN, CAN OCCULT INVOLVEMENT PRIOR TO SALVATION EFFECT ME?

Yes. When you got saved your sins were forgiven. The things you did were forgiven, but they gave satan permission to be involved in your life. You're forgiven but satan still has rights.

IT WAS ONLY A GAME.

Satan uses deception very well and many of his traps have an atmosphere of innocent fun. This does not make them any less destructive.

CAN I BE EFFECTED IF I'VE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE OCCULT?

Yes. The innocent can be infected by an occult root, or a decree of satan spoken over a child.

WHAT'S A SATANIC DECREE?

Divination (divining the sex of an unborn), or a prophetic word by any power besides the Holy Spirit. If a parent receives such a word as true, satan has the right to bring it to pass.

Superstition can result in a decree spoken by a parent. A baby born with a caul could get labelled as someone with supernatural power.

[HOROSCOPES]

WHAT'S THE OCCULT ROOT?

This comes from an ungodly heritage. If your parents or wife/husbands parents were involved with the occult you can inherit the curses and demonic assignments that resulted from their actions.

Deuteronomy 29:18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turns away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that bears gall and wormwood;

The "root" originates with demonic service and idolatry.

Exodus 20:5 You shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;

The curse is carried to succeeding generations.

1 Corinthians 10:19-20 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I [say], that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

This is a confirmation of Deuteronomy 29:18.

Under the Jewish law there is no atonement for idolatry/occult involvement. The punishment is death. This is to prevent the person involved to harm those around him. If he/she were to marry, the wife/husband, children and succeeding generations would be infected by the root of the occult.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF OCCULT INVOLVEMENT

Free!

HOW DO I GET FREE FROM THE OCCULT?

Under the New Covenant we can get forgiveness for sins, and in Christ we have the authority to break the power of satan over our lives.

Repent from your involvement. Realize the implications of your actions and renew your thinking about the subject. Accept your forgiveness.

Renounce your actions. This will delete the rights you gave satan in your life.

Renunciation must be backed with action. You need to destroy all occult books, jewelry, charms, regalia etc. that is in your possession.

Acts 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all [men]: and they counted the price of them, and found [it] fifty thousand [pieces] of silver.

 The Consequences
 of Occult Involvement

Deuteronomy 28:15 onward.

15 But it shall come to pass, if you do not hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day; that

all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you:

16 Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field.

17 Cursed shall be your basket and your store. (Lack of provision).

18 Cursed shall be the fruit of your body, and the fruit of your land, the increase of your kine, and the flocks of your sheep.

19 Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

20 The Lord shall send upon you cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that you set your hand unto for to do, until you be destroyed, and until you perish quickly; because of the wickedness of your doings, whereby you has forsaken me. (Failure). 21 The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto you, until he have consumed you from off the land, whither you go to possess it.

22 The Lord shall smite you with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue you until you perish. (Sickness).

23 And your heaven that is over your head shall be brass, and the earth that is under you shall be iron.

24 The Lord shall make the rain of your land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon you, until you be destroyed. (Drought).

25 The Lord shall cause you to be smitten before your enemies: you shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. (Defeat and slavery). 26 And your carcass shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

27 The Lord will smite you with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof you can not be healed. (Sickness).

28 The Lord shall smite you with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: (Mental illness).

29 And you shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropes in darkness, and you shalt not prosper in your ways: and you shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save you.

30 you shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: you shalt build an house, and you shalt not dwell therein: you shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof. your ox shall be slain before your eyes, and you shalt not eat thereof: your ass shall be violently taken away from before your face, and shall not be restored to you: your sheep shall be given unto your enemies, and you shalt have none to rescue them. (Calamity, disaster and loss). 32 your sons and your daughters will be given unto another people, and your eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in your hand. (Lose custody of your children in the divorce court).

33 The fruit of your land, and all your labors, shall a nation which you know not eat up; and you shalt be only oppressed and crushed always:

34 So that you shall be mad for the sight of your eyes which you shall see. (Despair and frustration).

35 The Lord shall smite you in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot unto the top of your head. (Sickness).

36 The Lord shall bring you, and your king which you shalt set over you, unto a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known; and there shalt you serve other gods, wood and stone.

37 And you shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead you.

38 you shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. (Poverty).

39 you shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. (Failed business).

40 you shalt have olive trees throughout all your coasts, but you shalt not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olive shall cast his fruit. (Failed business).

41 you shalt beget sons and daughters, but you shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.

42 All your trees and fruit of your land shall the locust consume. (Failed business).

43 The stranger that is within you shall get up above you very high; and you shalt come down very low.

44 He shall lend to you, and you shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and you shalt be the tail.

45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon you, and shall pursue you, and overtake you, till you be destroyed; because you listen not unto the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded you:

46 And they shall be upon you for a sign and for a wonder, and upon your seed for ever. (Ungodly heritage). 47 Because you serve not the Lord your God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

48 Therefore shalt you serve your enemies which the Lord shall send against you, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon your neck, until he have destroyed you. (Poverty).

49 The Lord shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue you shalt not understand;

50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young:

51 And he shall eat the fruit of your cattle, and the fruit of your land, until you be destroyed: which also shall not leave you either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of your kine, or flocks of your sheep, until he have destroyed you.

52 And he shall besiege you in all your gates, until your high and fenced walls come down, wherein you trust, throughout all your land: and he shall besiege you in all your gates throughout all your land, which the Lord your God has given you.

53 And you shalt eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, which the Lord your God has given you, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith your enemies shall distress you:

54 So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

55 So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he has nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith your enemies shall distress you in all your gates.

56 The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

57 And toward her young one that comes out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith your enemy shall distress you in your gates.

58 If you wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, The Lord your God;

59 Then the Lord will make your plagues wonderful, and the plagues of your seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

60 Moreover he will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt, which you was afraid of; and they shall cleave unto you.

61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon you, until you be destroyed. (Sickness).

62 And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

63 And it shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither you go to possess it.

64 And the Lord shall scatter you among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there you shalt serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known, even wood and stone.

65 And among these nations shalt you find no ease, neither shall the sole of your foot have rest: but the Lord shall give you there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

66 And your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of your life:

67 In the morning you shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even you shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of your heart wherewith you shalt fear, and for the sight of your eyes which you shall see.

68 And the LORD shall bring you into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spoke unto you, you shall see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

Occult Practices

Note!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that it is the practices that are in question not the practitioners.

This is not an attack against people. This material should not be used to judge any individual. Jesus died for all people and anyone can approach Him for forgiveness.

This list is for Christians who want to break the power of satan over their own lives.

FORTUNE TELLING

A fortune teller is someone who professes to be able to reveal future events in another person's life. By palmistry or crystal gazing.

PALM READING

The practice of judging character or telling fortunes by studying the palm of the hand.

TEA CUP READING

Telling the future by "reading" the pattern of the tea leaves from an empty cup used by an individual.

REFLEXOLOGY

Massaging the feet at the nerve endings in order that "healing" may take place.

ACUPUNCTURE

Insertion of needles into pressure points, and thereby relieving pain.

CLAIRVOYANT

The power of seeing things not normally perceptible to the senses. Second sight or divination. Someone who claims the power of clairvoyance or divination, the practice to communicate with the "dead" and receive messages.

SELF IMPROVEMENT COURSES

Based on the "Inner Man", the "I" being discovered and released in ones life. A philosophy centered around ones own ability to change oneself.

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS & PERSONALITY ANALYSIS

Your character revealed based on the way you write, or answers to certain questions asked.

COLOUR CODING

People are grouped according to looks, hair colour and complexion. Colours are allocated to groups accordingly.

DIVINATION

The practice of foretelling the future by non-rational methods. Intuitive prevision or augury (omens). Known as a diviner or dower, the practice of locating underground water with the aid of a drowsing rod.

PENDULUM

An object suspended from a fixed point and swinging freely. Used to "reveal" events, gender of the unborn and water divination.

TAROT CARDS

Used by fortune tellers to predict the future. One of seventy-eight playing-cards which originated in Italy during the Middle Ages.

SIGNS AND OMENS

An omen a sign of some future event, a foreboding. A fore-shadow or prediction by means of a sign.

A sign is a token, a symbol, a manifestation or omen. For example the throwing of bones, wishing on a shooting star, predicting the gender of an unborn child with the use of a pendulum.

GOOD LUCK CHARMS AND AMULETS

An amulet is a charm worn to ward off disease or evil spells.

A charm is a magic spell. Anything supposed to possess magic power, a talisman, an amulet or trinket. To charm is to subjugate by magic, to attract irresistibly.

ASTROLOGY

The practice, originally identical to astronomy, which interprets celestial phenomena as having a bearing upon mundane affairs thus affording a means of predicting the course of future events.

HOROSCOPES

A chart of the heavens by which an astrologer predicts the character and potential abilities of an individual in relation to the time of birth.

Notes and testimony

ALCHEMY

This seems like a pseudo-science with the belief that plants have a spirit and a soul.

WITCHCRAFT AND MUTI

The practices attributed to witches, the black art, sorcery, necromancy. A witch is a woman who in covenant with the devil practices sorcery. A witch doctor is one who practices healing. Muti is the medicine made by the witch doctor in which a curse is carried.

VOODOO

A System of magical rites prevalent among certain population groups of the West-Indies. Voodooist - one who practices these rites. To bewitch with voodoo.

CONSULTING INNER VOICES

Not doing anything until permission has been granted by a voice or voices other than the voice of the Holy Spirit.

NECROMANCY (BLACK MAGIC, ENCHANTMENT)

The practice of predicting future events by conjuring up the spirits of the dead.

SPIRITUALISM, SPIRITISM AND SEANCES

The religious belief that the spirits of the dead can communicate with living people. A seance is a meeting of spiritualists for consulting spirits and communicating with the other world.

TRANCES AND SPIRIT GUIDES

A state of complete insensibility during which the person appears to be in a very profound sleep; a condition in which the mind is blank and control has been handed over to a spirit guide.

GLASSY-GLASSY AND OUIJA BOARDS

A table or board with letters and signs, used at spiritualistic seances to answer questions.

MIND CONTROL

Casting spells over people in order to control their thinking and actions. Normally practiced by satanists.

HYPNOSIS

A state of being hypnotized; an abnormal state of mind resembling sleep, induced by suggestion from without, or by gazing fixedly at a bright object. A hypnotist is one who practices the inducing of hypnotism.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

The transcending or going beyond and ascertain the fundamental principles of human knowledge; a system of investigation of the higher truths of being, human or divine, by intuition and not by the logical processes and formulas of scientific inquiry in popular usage, that which is vague, mystical and illusory.

MENTAL TELEPATHY

The occult communication of facts, feelings, impressions between mind and mind at a distance; thought transference.

ASTRAL TRAVEL

The human spirit leaving its body to travel to any destination.

FALSE RELIGIONS

For example: 7th Day Adventist, Mormons, Jehovah's witness, Christian science.

SATANISM

A deliberate wickedness, maliciousness and fiendish temperament. The pursuit of evil for its own sake. Profanity with a diabolical disposition. The worship of satan.

FREE MASONRY

A system practiced by Freemasons; a secret understanding that exists between people of like interests.

EASTERN RELIGION

Mantra - chanting in a special manner.

MARTIAL ARTS

Judo, Karate, Kung-fu, Ti-chi. Self defence by self discipline and gaining control of the mind by chanting and controlled movements. These practices originated in the temples of Japan and China.

Notes and testimony.

YOGA

A strict spiritual discipline practiced by Brahmins and others in the order to gain control over the forces of one's own being; to gain occult powers; but chiefly to attain union with the Deity or Universal Spirit which is satan.

INITIATION RITUALS (INCLUDING HAZING)

Initiation is defined as ceremonies of an office or association. Ritual defined as the manner of performing a divine service. In context with secret organizations.

BLOOD COVENANTS

Covenant is defined as a mutual and solemn agreement, a contract, a compact or a written agreement between two or more people.

ABNORMAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

This includes fornication, defined as the sexual act performed between unmarried couples. Adultery, as in sexual relationships outside of a marriage covenant. Homosexuality and Lesbianism, defined as the attraction between individuals of the same sex. The result of this attraction is a perversion of the sexual act.

MOLESTATION

The definition of molest is to trouble or accost with sinister intention, usually in a sexual manner.

RAPE

Carnal knowledge of a person against their will.

PORNOGRAPHY

Stimulation of the Carnal nature. This makes an individual more susceptible to the influence of demons. See "Braking the Cycle"

Bookmark here before you hit this link.

FANTASIES

Conjuring a mental image or hallucinating, normally to do with the sexual act.

DAY DREAMING

To indulge in abstracted thinking, a state of mind related to dreaming. Normally self centered.

[WHAT ARE OCCULT PRACTICES?] Evidence:

NOTES AND TESTIMONY

Horoscopes.

During a prayer meeting, where we were praying for a specific person. The Lord showed me a demon that looked like a combination between a crab and a lobster. I thought that it looked like the sign of Cancer from the signs of the Zodiac. I asked if the person that we were praying for was suffering from cancer and it was affirmed.

I have heard of people that say they are "a cancer". If the Bible is anything to go by, then there has to be a connection between the confession and the disease. Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. It would be very interesting to find out what the statistics are.

Please let me know if you can verify this theory.

Remember, it can take several generations before a curse manifests. On the other hand it could be a decree. (The child is born on such-and-such a date, he/she is therefore a Cancer).

[HOROSCOPES]

Martial arts.

Involvement in martial arts can result in the interference of a "martial arts demon or a spirit of violence". This spiritual being manifesting as uncontrollable rage or a violent temper. I can give personal testimony of this phenomenon.

I have a theory that most wife/child batterers suffer from this kind of affliction. If you can verify this please let me know.

[MARTIAL ARTS]

Dictionary and Glossary

IMPORTANT!

Wait for the page to jump to the hyper linked word. This will take a few seconds depending on the speed of your connection.

Dictionary:

Atonement.

Atone is to make amends. Atonement; to make reparation for wrong or injury; reconciliation of God and man. The Atonement; the paying of the penalty of mankind's sin by Jesus Christ.

[Concept index]

[atonement- THE FALL OF MAN]

[atonement- SALVATION]

Condemned.

Condemn, bring judgment against; sentence to punishment especially sentence to death.

[Concept index]

[condemned - SALVATION]

Conscience.

The spirit consists of the organs:

•Conscience •Intuition •Communion

Description of the spirit's organs in Spirit and Soul.

[Concept index]

[conviction and condemnation]

Conviction and condemnation.

Conviction is experienced as an inner witness or a reminder or conscience. This experience is designed to draw us closer to God through sanctification.

Condemnation is a tool of satan and is used to bring feelings of guilt and worthlessness. The result self-condemnation and the drawing away from the forgiveness and love of the Father.

[Concept index]

[convicts- SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

Deepest hidden things.

This refers to the activities of the soul defined as "self will". These go beyond the activities of the sinful nature of the flesh which are easily identifiable, because they manifest through the body and can be seen by everyone.

Activities of the soul defined as self will include, carnal thinking as well as the mental attitude of someone with a renewed mind that does not practice "dying to self".

Explanations of topics:

•Self will. Vol.1, Part 3, Chapter 2, Page 153. •"The Experience of Soulish Believers"

•Sinful nature of the flesh. Vol.1, Part 2, Chapter 2, Page 83. •"The Fleshly or Carnal Believer"

•Carnal thinking. Vol.1, Part 2, Chapter 4, Page 108. •"The Boastings of the Flesh"

•A renewed mind that does not practice "dying to self". Vol.1, Part 3, Chapter 3, Page 167. •"The Dangers of Soulish Life"

•Dying to self. Vol.1, Part 3, Chapter 4, Page 179. •"The Cross and the Soul"

[Concept index]

[deep and hidden thing- SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

Depravity.

Moral perversion; impairment of virtue and moral principles.

[Concept index]

[depravity- SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY AFTER THE FALL]

Dividing of the soul and spirit.

Division or distinction refers to the identification and isolation of the respective functions of soul and spirit. Identification of the functions and activities of soul and spirit prevents confusion. If we are to live by the spirit we cannot allow the functions of the soul to interfere. (Reason or intellect based on human knowledge can not comprehend or assist divine destination).

Respective functions explained in Spirit and Soul.

[Concept index]

[dividing- SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

Malignant.

Very infectious, tending to spread and to recur after removal. Harmful, showing intense ill will.

[malignant - The Cross and the Holy Spirit]

Mind of Christ.

When we look at the parallel Between the Tabernacle as the temple of God and the human being as the temple of God, we see a point in time when a severe change occurred in the relation between the Holy Place (human equivalent - soul) and the Holy of Holies (human equivalent - spirit). This was the moment Jesus died on the cross. The veil was rent and the Spirit of God was no longer hidden behind the veil.

We know that the veil is a type of the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:20). When Jesus died, it became possible for mankind to be re-united with God. Jesus was the veil. The separation is sin. With sin intact there's a separation. Jesus takes sin on Himself and dies, successfully removing the barrier that separates man from God.

In the new temple the separation between us and God is removed when we become born again. Without the knowledge that we are free from the power of sin, we continue experiencing the veil between soul and spirit. After we accept the crucifixion of the Lord as our own, His death becomes our own death. It is the death that removes the separation (sin) that prevents us from having communion with God. The result is a renewed mind.

With a renewed mind the Word exposes and we become able to identify what self is. As we co-operate with the Holy Spirit, He uses the cross to put self to death. As self diminishes the Holy Spirit Who now not only inhabits our spirit but our soul as well has is progressively able to make our mind function in a divine capacity. The mind of Christ.

Description in volume 1, PART THREE, chapter 5 "The Soul Under the Spirit's Control"

[Concept index]

[positional and experiential]

Performance.

Performance in this case refers to, an attitude of thinking that God rewards us on our level of output.

The thing that pleases God is faith. It is not the amount of good works that is important but the effectiveness of obeying Him by doing the good works that He has planned for us to do. Works has nothing to do with acquiring a renewed mind, they are the result of a renewed mind. Works done outside the will of God are wood, hay and straw.

A renewed mind is the reward of faith. Obedience is the result of a renewed mind. Works come from obedience.

Hebrews 11:6NIV And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Ephesians 2:10NIV For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15NIV 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

[Concept index]

[performance]

Position of the soul and spirit.

This refers to the biblical reference concerning the positional function of the soul and spirit.

Before the fall man was ruled by his spirit. He fulfilled the purpose of existence, namely to be the Lord's friend. His spirit communicated with the Lord. He did the tasks the Lord gave him using his soul and body, (naming the animals, tending the garden).

After the fall he could no longer approach the Lord. His life became a struggle for survival. His body started dominating his existence in that it was an effort to keep it fed, clothed and protected. His soul became over active in that it had to solve the many problems of living in a physical world.

When Jesus died on the cross, He made it possible for us to experience a better life than what Adam had before the fall. This is the eternal life which comes by the presence of the Holy Spirit Who lives in our spirit. We can experience this life when we put our spirit first (to live by faith). But we are so used to relying on the soul that it's difficult to let go of reason and to rely on faith.

The position of the soul is that it strives for survival.

I've got to do good at school, so that I can get a good job, so that I can stay in a good suburb, so that my parents can be proud of me. We are driven to achieve because survival does not end with food and clothes. Image, status and self-worth are all factors that influence the survival of soul. The problem lies in that our values have become unbiblical.

The position of the spirit is that it's the source of life.

In our spirit we positionally own all the promises of God. This life is contradictory to the created life in that it requires faith. It cannot be obtained through intellect, rules, works or any of the methods we apply to achieve something by the body and soul.

[Concept index]

[position- SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY]

Positional and experiential.

The spiritual condition of an individual determines their positional status.

The positional status of a lost soul (sinner, unbeliever) is to be separated from God. The positional status of a person with a recreated spirit (born again Christian, believer, saint, child of God) is to be in covenant with God with the potential of having the life of God manifesting in their lives. All the promises of the Bible belong to them but what they experience does not necessarily confirm this.

Positionally, believers are seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father. We are in Christ and He is in us. We have His mind, but generally our experience is a carnal mind.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Experiential refers to our experience from day-to-day. i.e. We experience the frustration and struggle of a carnal mind, or the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control of a renewed mind, or, the fullness of Christ with the mind of Christ.

[Concept index]

[position of the soul and spirit]

[Positionally - SALVATION]

[sanctification]

Renewed Mind.

The consciousness of a renewed mind is "I am crucified in Christ, sin has no power over me". It is not only a confession but an experienced reality.

A renewed mind comes with the revelation of the finished work of the cross. This revelation comes with the belief that the flesh is crucified, which means that the sinful nature becomes inoperative.

Description in volume 1, PART THREE, chapter 1, Page 133.

And volume 3, PART EIGHT, chapter 3.

[Concept index]

[positional and experiential]

Revelation.

In the New Testament where the term "word" is used to describe the Word of God, we are able to identify two distinct meanings when looking at the original ancient Greek that the NT was written in. Logos and Rhema. Logos means the written word and Rhema means the spoken word. Rhema happens when we intuitively hear God speaking to us through our spirit, a revelation.

Romans 10:16 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word (rhema) of Christ.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word (logos) was with God, and the Word (logos) was God.

[Concept index]

[revelation - SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY]

[revelation - Intuition]

[revelation - GOD'S SALVATION]

[revelation - THE NECESSITY FOR DEATH]

[revelations - Things that will prevent you from realizing...]

[revelation - THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FLESH]

[revelation - THE CROSS AND THE DEEPER...]

 Righteous.

good, just, morally justified, upright, virtuous, guiltless, innocent, worthy

Righteousness.

adhering to moral principles, morality, honesty, uprightness

[Concept index]

[righteousness - GOD'S VIEW OF THE FLESH]

Sanctify.

•Sanctify is synonymous with consecrate :-

•set apart as sacred

•sacred: -

•devoted to God •held especially acceptable to God •dedicated to God •reserved for God •appropriated to God •made holy

•Set apart to observe as holy •Purify from sin •Free from sin •Impart sanctity to.

•sanctity:-

•holiness of life •saintliness •sacredness •being hallowed •right to reverence •inviolability:-

•not to be violated •to be kept sacred from irreverence or pollution.

•Make legitimate or binding by religious sanction •Give colors of morality or innocence to •Make productive of or conducive to holiness

•holy:-

•consecrated •sacred •morally and spiritually perfect •belonging to God •empowered by God •devoted to God

[Concept index]

[Sanctification - sanctify]

Sanctification -sanctify.

Positionally we are already sanctified. In order to experience sanctification we have to live it. If we want to experience the power of God we must have faith in it. If we want to experience sanctification we must believe that it belongs to us. By relying on the leading of the Holy Spirit we can determine in any situation if our deeds and actions are those of sanctified person.

[Concept index]

[Conviction and condemnation]

Soulical and soulish.

These adjectives convey distinctly different meanings.

Soulical are the proper, appropriate, legitimate and natural qualities, functions and expressions of the soul. The unique way in which the Lord intended for the soul to function in order to display each individual personality.

Soulish is the description of man governed by his soul in spite of the presence of his spirit. In the context of someone who is born again.

[Concept index]

[soulical- SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY]

[soulish- SPIRIT]

 The Work of the Cross.

A fairly common term used by Christians today is "I lay something at the foot of the cross". This usually refers to dealing with a hang-up or sin. The Bible has no reference to this way of dealing with problems. To lay something at the foot of the cross in actual fact means nothing. We might by the grace of God get some results, but in order for the work of the cross to be one hundred percent effective in our life it's important that we understand it's operation clearly.

There is absolutely no power what so ever in any cross. The work of the cross refers to the death of Jesus as well as the subsequent resurrection, with the emphasis on His death. This event holds great power for believers because it is the key to a victorious life in Christ.

What happened on the cross, and how does it affect us?

Jesus hangs on the cross as the sacrificial lamb of God. He is completely pure and sinless. He becomes sin in spirit soul and body. He then allows His body to die with sin in it whereby He destroys the power of sin and the sinful nature over mankind. He becomes the perfect trap for sin. And once trapped inside Him, He kills it and destroys it's power by letting Himself die.

Because His death is reckoned as our death, means a believer can experience a life that is free from the power of sin. This includes other characteristics such as the deceitful nature of the flesh.

When we receive Jesus as our Saviour, we receive His death on the cross. His crucifixion becomes our crucifixion. In the same way that the Lord's flesh died with sin being destroyed in it; so our fleshly nature with sin in it have also died (Romans 6). Now if the flesh is dead and the power of sin has been destroyed, why does it still affect Christians so much?

It comes through the deceitful desires of the flesh. The deceit of the flesh is that it convinces us that it is alive through it's desire to cause us to sin by fulfilling those desires.

Deceit is accompanied by a lack of knowledge with a wrongful approach to the word. By a wrongful approach I mean that we approach the word as a book of laws (the tree of knowledge) instead of a book of promise and truth (the tree of life). So the knowledge we acquire, instead of setting us free further enslaves us to the law because of our fleshly perception of it.

It is also through a lack of revelation which comes through the spirit. We rely too much on hearing a secondhand rhema and spend too little time seeking a living relationship with Jesus through His Holy Spirit.

The revelation is this: The old man (sinful flesh ruling the being) is dead (Romans 6). Now, put off the old man, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires. Enforce the crucifixion of the old man (Romans 6:6). The way you do this is by being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:13). When the Holy Spirit convicts you, obey immediately. Do not wait, because this will give the flesh a chance to deceive you.

When Jesus died He became the sacrificial lamb, our sin was on him and by dying He paid the rightful penalty for sin, which is death. He conquered sin because the Father resurrected Him. When we accept the Lord as our Saviour we become more than conquerors, His death and resurrection becomes ours immediately. All that is required of us is that we believe it and to live in it.

About "The Spiritual Man"

The "The Spiritual Man" is quite extraordinary in its content as well as extremely difficult to comprehend. Nee gives an explanation for this in the first preface.

The problem in digesting the content of this book goes beyond the fact that Satan does not want us to have this knowledge. Our flesh does not want us to have it, because when we apply it our flesh loses its power over the soul to rule the being.

The implications of this are many and will become clear as you struggle through the book. The first struggle will be to actually take the book up and read it. You will be amazed at the excuses that will present themselves to prevent you from reading. The second struggle is to concentrate and not allow your mind to wander. The third struggle is being confronted by teaching that opposes preconceptions and false knowledge. This will make you put the book down for years at a time. With time the Lord graciously manages to teach us the truth.

The reason for the summaries is to firstly not infringe on copyright and secondly to provide a vehicle by which to streamline comprehension through descriptive definitions of obscure terms. The personal notes are from my own experience and those around me that have been exposed to brother Nee's teaching. The necessity for an accessible source on biblical based psychology has long since been overlooked. (Note: Psychology here does not only refer to the science of mental life but includes the study of the nature of the body with the attributes of contributing independently to the actions of the being, as well as the impact of a recreated human spirit).

Exerts from the first preface of The Spiritual Man.

Paraphrased sections in green.

A book touching on the way of spiritual life and the stratagem of spiritual warfare.

I lay down my pen chiefly because up to that time many truths had yet to be written which had not been fully proven in my experience. This lack I knew would lessen the value as well as the power of the book. I would prefer to learn more before the Lord and prove His truth through experience. What I wrote would then be spiritual realities instead of merely spiritual theories.

By the special grace of the Lord I was enabled to understand more of the purpose of God's redemption in dividing the new and the old creations.

I know the enemy hates this work deeply. He will try every means to prevent it from reaching people's hands and to hinder them from reading it.

It is written not so much to urge individuals to seek the spiritual way as to help those who are seeking to know the way.

The Spiritual life of readers vary. If you should therefore come to some point difficult to understand, please neither reject them nor try to fathom them mentally. Such truths should be reserved for more matured life. Upon re-reading that difficult part later, you may perhaps grasp it better. Nevertheless, this book deals wholly with spiritual life as an experience. In no other way can it be understood. What appears to be tasteless in the beginning may become most precious later. You will understand when you reach that stage. But is it necessary to wait until reaching that stage before understanding? If such were the case, what will be the use of this book! A great mystery surrounds the spiritual experience of the believer. The Lord always gives a foretaste of the outline of a deeper life before He leads him into the full experience of it. Many believers mistake their foretaste for the fullness, not realizing that the Lord is just beginning to lead them in. The teaching in this book will meet the need of those who have tasted but not yet fully drunk.

One thing we must guard against: we should never use the knowledge we acquire from this book as an aid in analyzing ourselves. Unless a believer is deeply taught by the Lord he will not be able to know himself. Introspection and self-consciousness are harmful to spiritual life.

God's purpose is that through the new life given us at the time of regeneration He might be able to deliver us from (1) sin, (2) the natural, and (3) the supernatural, that is, the satanic force of evil in the unseen realm.

It certainly is well to overcome sin, but the work is not complete if the petty self and supernatural evil are left unconquered. The cross can afford such victory.

The majority of this book may be considered as Biblical psychology. (Bookmark before you hit this link!) We base everything on the Bible and prove all by spiritual experience. The result of our findings, both through studying the Word and through experience, tells us that for every spiritual experience (for example, the new birth) there is a special change in our inward man. We conclude that the Bible divides man into three parts - spirit, soul and body. We shall see further how different are the functions and the realms of these three parts, particularly those of spirit and soul.

The differentiation of spirit and soul as well as the difference in their functions are necessary knowledge to those who seek to grow in spiritual life. Only after knowing what is the spirit and what is spiritual can we walk according to the spirit.

God's purpose is that His children are to be delivered wholly from the old creation and are to enter fully into the new creation.

New birth - receiving God's own life - is the starting point of all spiritual life.

As I recall how the enemy has tried to hinder me from learning the truths written in the last volume, I cannot but be apprehensive that some, though possessing the book, will be hindered by Satan from reading it; or if they do read it, will be made soon to forget it. Therefore let me warn my readers: you should ask God to keep Satan from preventing your reading it. Pray as you read; turn what you read into prayer. Pray that God will cover you with the helmet of your salvation lest you forget what you read or simply fill your mind with innumerable theories.

A few words to those who already possess the truths set forth in these pages. If God has graciously liberated you from the flesh and power of darkness, you, in turn, ought to bring these truths to others. So after you have digested the book thoroughly and the truths have become your own, will you gather a few saints together and teach them the truths.

The hope is that the truths herein will not go unnoticed. Even lending the book to others to read would be a profitable thing.

Watchman Nee

Shanghai

4 June 1927

Exerts from the second preface of *The Spiritual Man*.

I desire my readers to understand thoroughly that this work is in no way to be considered as a treatise on the theory of spiritual life and warfare. I myself can testify that I have learned these truths through much suffering, trial and failure. It can almost be said that every one of these teachings has been branded with fire. And these words are not used lightly; they come from the depth of the heart. God knows from whence these truths come.

I realize there are many apparent inconsistencies in the work, but the reader should remember that they are indeed apparent, not actual. Because this book treats the matters in the spiritual realm, there are bound to be many apparent theoretical contradictions. Spiritual things do often seem to be contradictory. (2 Corinthians 4:8,9). However, these all find their perfect harmony in experience. Hence, though there are places which seem to defy understanding, my request is that you try your best to understand. If anyone desires to misunderstand, he can surely read into these pages that which I have not intended.

Unless the reader has personal need he will not find any problem solved through the reading of these pages. This is what the reader must guard against. The deeper the truth the easier it is to become theoretical.

Apart from the working of the Holy Spirit, none can arrive at deeper truth. Thus some will treat these principals as a sort of ideal. Let us be careful lest we accept the teachings in the book with our mind and deceive ourselves into thinking we have possessed them already. This is most dangerous, for deception that comes from the flesh and the evil spirit shall increase day by day.

The reader also should be watchful lest he misuse the knowledge he obtains from these pages to criticize others. It is very easy for us to say this is of the spirit and that is of the flesh; but do we not know we ourselves are no exception? Truth is given to set people free, not to find fault. In criticizing we prove ourselves to be not one bit less soulish or carnal than the criticized. The danger is most serious; consequently we need to exercise great caution.

In my first preface I mentioned one matter which deserves to be repeated and elaborated upon here. It is of the utmost importance that we never try to analyze ourselves. Upon reading such a treatise as this, we may quite unconsciously become over-active in self-analysis. In observing the condition of our inward life we tend to over-analyze our thoughts and feelings and the movements of the inner man. This may result in much apparent progress, yet it actually renders treatment of the self life that much more difficult. If we persistently turn within ourselves we shall lose our peace completely, for we shall soon discover the discrepancy which exist between our expectation and our actual condition. We expect to be filled with holiness but we are found wanting in holiness. This makes us uncomfortable. God never asks us to be so introspective. To do so constitutes one of the main reasons for spiritual stagnation. Our rest lies in looking to the Lord, not to ourselves. In the degree that we look off unto Him to that degree are we delivered from self. We rest on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, not on our own shifting experience. True spiritual life depends not on probing our feelings and thoughts from dawn to dusk but on "looking off" to the Saviour!

I most sincerely believe many supernatural experiences come from God; I have witnessed a great number of them. However, I acknowledge that today many supernatural phenomena are false and deceptive. When a believer is faced with any supernatural phenomenon, he ought to examine it carefully according to the principles revealed in the Bible before he decides to accept or reject it.

As for the matter of soul, I honestly feel most Christians swing from one extreme to the other. We on the one hand usually consider emotion as soulish; consequently those who are easily moved or exited we normally categorize as soulish. On the other hand we forget that being rational does not at all constitute one being spiritual. This misjudgment of spiritualizing a rational life must be guarded against equally as much as against that of mistaking a predominantly emotional life for spirituality. Proceeding one step further, we should never reduce the function of our soul to deadly inactivity. Formerly we may never have viewed our

soulful feeling and excitement with any degree of concern and thus we walked accordingly. Later, however, and recognizing our former error, we now suppress these emotions altogether. Such an attitude to us may appear to be quite good, but it will not make us a whit more spiritual. If my reader misunderstands on this point, and no matter how minor be the misunderstanding, then I know his life is going to become very "dead". Why? Because his spirit without any opportunity to express itself, will be imprisoned by a deadened emotion. And beyond this lies a further danger; namely, that in overly-suppressing his emotion, the believer will develop eventually into a rational, not a spiritual, man; and thus, though in another form, he still remains soulful. Yet the excitement of the soul, if it expresses the spirit's feeling, is extremely valuable; and the thought of the soul, if it reveals the spirit's mind, can be most instructive.

I would like to say something about the concluding part of the book. Considering the frailty of my body, I would seem to be the least qualified to write on such a matter; perhaps, though, this very frailty affords me a deeper insight since I suffer more weakness, sickness and pain than most people. Countless times my courage has seem to fail but, thank God, I have been able to finish writing this portion. I hope those who have had similar experiences in their earthly tents will accept what I have written as offering light out of the darkness through which I have gone. Naturally innumerable are the controversies which have revolved around divine healing. Since this is a book that deals primarily with principles, I refrain from entering into argument with other believers on details. I have said in my book what I feel led to say. What I now request of my reader is that the phenomena of sickness he discern and distinguish as to which come from God and which from self.

I recognize that a work which seeks to uncover the wiles of the enemy shall certainly incur the hostility of the power of darkness and the opposition of many. I have not written with the thought of courting the approval of men. This opposition I consider therefore as of no account. I also realize that if God's children derive help from reading this book they may think more of me than is proper. Let me speak honestly that I am but a man, the weakest of all men. The teachings of these pages reveal the experience of my weakness.

Beloved, let us turn our hearts once again to our Father, cast ourselves upon His bosom by faith and draw from Him His life. Let us confess anew that we are poor but He is rich, that we have nothing but He has everything. Except we are given grace we are but defenseless sinners. May we thank Him with gratitude in our hearts, for the Lord Jesus has given us grace.

Holy Father, what you have entrusted to me is now here in this book. If it seems good to You, may You bless it. May You in these last days keep Your children from corrupted flesh and wicked spirits! Father, may You build Your Son's Body, destroy Your Son's enemy, and hasten the coming of Your Son's Kingdom! Father God I look to You, I cast myself upon You, and I desire after You!

Watchman Nee
Shanghai
25 June 1928